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Northeast India battered by rain; lakhs affected

More than 3.6 lakh people are in distress in Assam; nearly 900 houses damaged in Manipur and Mizoram; and 1,500 tourists stranded in Sikkim; four dead on Sunday, taking rain-related toll to 34

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI/AGARTALA

Quick response: NDRF members evacuate patients and staff members from the flood-affected Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal East, Manipur, on Sunday. REUTERS

Mild to heavy rain continued to batter large swathes of the northeastern region on Sunday, with floods and landslides damaging more than 900 houses in Manipur and Mizoram, while 1,500 tourists were left stranded in northern Sikkim.

More than 3.64 lakh people across 19 districts of Assam have been affected in a wave of floods that disrupted road transport and train services on Sunday.

Four people – two in Assam and one each in Mizoram and Tripura – died on Sunday, taking the death toll due to rain-induced floods, flash floods, landslips, rockfalls, and lightning across the northeast since May 28 to 34.

Ten of these victims were in Assam, nine in Arunachal Pradesh, six each in Meghalaya and Mizoram, two in Tripura, and one in Nagaland.

In Sikkim's Mangan district, some 1,500 tourists were left stranded as roads were blocked following landslips. Superintendent of Police Sonam Detchu Bhutia said that the operation to locate nine people from Odisha and West Bengal who went missing after a vehicle fell into the Teesta river a few days ago had to be temporarily suspended.

The floods in Manipur affected more than 3,800 people and damaged at least 883 houses.

Imphal East district suffered the most damage, as some major rivers breached embankments, flooding many areas of the State's capital and the surrounding localities.

Large-scale damage was reported from the hilly Kangpokpi district and Senapati beyond.

Rescue operation

The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Sunday rescued 14 people who were stranded in the middle of the flooded Bomjir river in the Lower Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh bordering Assam.

The IAF flew an Mi-17 helicopter following requests from the Arunachal Pradesh and Assam governments.

"The rescued people – 13 from Assam and one from Arunachal Pradesh – were sent back home safely," a defence spokesperson said.

On Sunday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke with the Chief Ministers of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim, and the Governor of Manipur to take stock of the situation. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Mr. Shah had offered all possible assistance to deal with the situation.

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Karnataka received record rainfall since 1901 in May

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka which received bountiful rainfall during May has created an all-time record.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru, said that based on the real-time data of May 2025, rainfall for the month over the State as a whole and at its two meteorological sub-divisions has set an all-time record, since 1901.

As per IMD data, Karnataka received a cumulative rainfall of 245.2 mm, which is a new record. The previous record was 185.9 mm recorded in 1943.

The two meteorological sub-divisions – coastal Karnataka and north-interior Karnataka – recorded 764.9 mm and 172.5 mm rainfall respectively.

The previous record for the coastal region was 690.6 mm in 1918 and 151.6 mm in 1943.

Bagalkot (148.9 mm), Bidar (213.8 mm), Vijayapura (178.7 mm), Chikkamagaluru (415.3 mm), Dakshina Kannada (994.5 mm), Koppal (165.9 mm), and Yadgir (200.2 mm) also received record rainfall during May.

The previous highest rainfall was Bagalkot 131.6 mm recorded in 1958; Bidar 171.8 mm in 1986; Vijayapura 158.3 mm in 1990; Chikkamagaluru 321.4 mm in 1955; Dakshina Kannada 845.3 mm in 1918; Koppal 129.3 mm in 1901, and Yadgir 157 mm in 1960.

Similarly, Karnataka and the meteorological subdivisions and 10 districts received all-time record rainfall (since 1901) between March and May 2025.

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LJP(RV) DROPS HINTS

Chirag may contest in Bihar from general seat

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Whose mountain is it, anyway?

Indigenous communities provide stewardship in preserving hill ecology

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AIRBASES HIT

Ukraine drones strike deep inside Russia

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Festival preparations

A devotee pours oil into earthen lamps ahead of the Kheer Bhawani Mela in Jammu on Sunday. The event will be held at the Ragnya Bhagwati shrines in Ganderbal, Kulgam, Anantnag, and Kupwara on Tuesday amid tight security and fewer devotees than last year. PTI

NEARBY

'Revenue courts see big decline in overdue cases'

BENGALURU
Karnataka has now become a model for the country in terms of handling revenue disputes as the State has drastically reduced the "overdue" cases before the courts of tahsildars and Assistant Commissioners.

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EDUCATIONPLUS
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Bangladesh tribunal indicts ex-PM Sheikh Hasina

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) of Bangladesh on Sunday indicted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for ordering police action against protesters last year, and directed the authorities to produce her before the tribunal in Dhaka on June 16. The proceedings of the tribunal came nearly 10 months after Ms. Hasina left Bangladesh and took refuge in India on August 5, 2024.

The ICT, a domestic war crimes tribunal set up by the Hasina government in 2010, has issued warrants to arrest Ms. Hasina and former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal. Former Inspector-General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun was also indicted. "We do hereby take into cognizance the charges," the ICT's three-judge Bench said, after a prosecution team argued that as Prime Minister, Ms. Hasina had overseen a "systematic attack" against common people who were demanding that she step down from power.

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Is Sai Sudharsan ready for the big leap?

The southpaw from Tamil Nadu doesn't boast of a great record in First-Class cricket but has a sound technique to excel in Tests; as India usher in a new era in whites under Gill, his opening partner at Gujarat Titans has what it takes to excel in the format along with experienced heads in Pants, Rahul and Jadeja

R. Kaushik

A little shimmy to the off, his stumps exposed to the fast bowler, and a cheeky paddle-scoop over the 'keeper or fine-leg, for four or six. That has been one of B. Sai Sudharsan's more productive strokes in IPL 2025.

It's a stroke that has also brought about his downfall. Against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their first home game of the season on April 2, the left-hander's attempt at shovelling a slower ball from Josh Hazlewood resulted merely in a bottom-edged loop that nestled in Jitesh Sharma's gloves. It wasn't a costly mistake; Sai Sudharsan's 49 had taken his team to within 63 of the target of 170, which Jos Buttler and Sherfane Rutherford reeled in with a massive 13 deliveries to spare.

There wasn't a similar happy ending in Mullanpur in Friday night's Eliminator. The in-form Sai Sudharsan and his captain and opening partner, Shubman Gill, carried most of Gujarat Titans' hopes after Mumbai Indians stacked up 228 for five in the winner-take-all knockout encounter, particularly with Buttler having flown the nest to link up with England for national duty. Gill was knocked over early, by Trent Boult, but Sai Sudharsan carried on manfully, elegantly, rapidly, like he had done all season. First with Kusal Mendis and then alongside Tamil Nadu buddy Washington Sundar, the 23-year-old kept the 2022 champions in the hunt, furrowed brows and resultant crease lines on the Mumbai Indians foreheads indicative of their mounting desperation.

Even when Washington was cleaned up by a peach of a yorker from Jasprit Bumrah, the Titans were on course, needing 78 from 38. Not regulation or straightforward, not by any stretch of the imagination, but there still was Sai Sudharsan, wasn't he? The tournament's leading scorer, having breezed past his sixth half-century (to go with an unbeaten hundred), sighting the ball superbly, willing it to go where he wanted it to, in total command even against Bumrah, if only defensively.

The Titans had reached 170 for three, 59 away from a place in Qualifier 2 with 27 deliveries to go and seven wickets in hand. Anyone's game, really. Until Sai Sudharsan moved to his left, seeking to scoop season debutant Richard Gleeson over the fine-leg fielder who was inside the 30-yard circle. Having overcommitted to the stroke, Sai Sudharsan had no answer when the English right-arm quick bowled a full, quick ball that homed in on the base of the middle stump. As Sai Sudharsan missed, Gleeson hit, the unmistakable death rattle a body blow to the Titans, a death knell if ever there was one.

Sai Sudharsan trudged off, disconsolate, the thunderous wave of applause from a massive crowd that had been treated to subliminal batsmanship barely registering. He didn't care that he had wowed on his way to 80 off 49, it mattered not one bit that he had amassed 759 runs in 15 innings at an extremely impressive strike-rate of 156.17. He had let his side down after doing all the hard work, he had failed to take them past the finish line. Sai Sudharsan almost *knew* that with him, the Titans' last hope had disappeared even though there still was some firepower waiting to be unleashed. His worst fears came true a half-hour later when the five-time former champions completed a 20-run victory, ushering the Titans out of the tournament as they finished their otherwise impressive campaign with three crushing losses when it mattered the most.

Sai Sudharsan doesn't have much time to mope and brood and wonder what might have been. After all, a Test tour of England awaits, and he can ill-afford, both from a personal and team perspective, to stay rooted in the past. A bigger, far more demanding and exciting challenge lies ahead of him as he prepares for life with the Indian Test squad for the first time. Already, one suspects, Sai Sudharsan's focus will have shifted from the white Kookaburra to the dark red Dukes, England's preferred weapon of destruction in their backyard.

At some stage over the next couple of months, potentially as early as June 20 and the first of five Tests at Headingley, Sai Sudharsan should receive his Test cap. The think-tank is currently playing it coy - the cards, facing inwards, are a millimetre away from the chest and one isn't sure which of the numerous top-order batters will occupy what positions in the top four - and therefore it can't be said with guaranteed assurance that Sai Sudharsan will line up in Leeds. But it will be a travesty if he doesn't, given not just the mountain of runs he has stacked up in the IPL but also the manner in which he has gone about piecing them together.

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The soft-spoken left-hander doesn't have the most intimidating of first-class records; in an era where an average of 50 in domestic first-class cricket doesn't really mean too much, he only tips the scales at 39.93 after 29 outings for Tamil Nadu and a host of other teams, including for India 'A' and, notably, for Surrey in the English County Championship for two summers.

Like Karun Nair, who has also county experience for Northamptonshire over the last two seasons, Sai Sudharsan turned to England to further his education, playing five Division 1 games for Surrey, including three in 2024. The last of them, against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, yielded 105 and 28. That alone shouldn't be the clincher, it goes without saying. But Sai Sudharsan has done enough either side of those innings to merit a place in the starting XI as India embark on the road to transition following the retirements of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

VIJAY SONEJI

Grand opportunity

Nearly three decades back, a classy left-handed Indian announced himself in Test cricket with a magnificent century on debut at Lord's. Sourav Ganguly had spent four and a half years in the wilderness after first breaking into the Indian (one-day) set-up in Australia in 1991-92. Exactly 29 years ago on June 20 (the same date the Leeds Test will start), he became India's Test cricketer No. 206, celebrating his long wait with a glorious 131 in the first innings, batting at No. 3, a slot that Sai Sudharsan is expected to occupy behind K.L. Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal. Without getting sucked into the comparison game, Sai Sudharsan has a grand opportunity to emulate the former captain though Ganguly himself will acknowledge that the younger left-hander from Chennai hasn't quite shown the same discomfort thus far against the shorter ball like Ganguly did at various stages of his career.

Sai Sudharsan can't afford to take his place for granted and from whatever one can glean, he is anyway not the sort to do so. By his own admission, he has plenty to learn but unlike an 'A' tour which can largely be classed as a learning experience, in the searing cauldron of Test cricket, he must learn on the job, so to say. A five-Test series is a huge examination of not just one's skill and ability, but also mental fortitude and the ability to bounce back. It does afford the chance to recover from early setbacks, but it can also be unforgiving in exposing technical inadequacies, as Kohli found out in England in 2014 and again in Australia in what has become the final act of his extraordinary red-ball journey.

Alongside Gill and Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant, Sai Sudharsan forms the core group expected to take Indian Test batting forward. All these men are in their 20s - at 27, Pant is the oldest, the most experienced and the most successful to date - and will attempt to grow into their roles in the company of Rahul and Nair, both 33 but at different ends of the Test spectrum. The former, who made his Test debut in December 2014, is the most experienced of India's specialist batters with 58 appearances while Nair has played a mere has played a mere six Tests, the last of them in March 2017 even though he had made a Test triple just three months previously. Even as he is trying to rediscover his Test chops, Nair must also, in the company Rahul and Pant and Ravindra Jadeja, carry the younger lot along. Sai Sudharsan is the second youngest of that younger lot, behind Jaiswal. He is aware that while he doesn't have the luxury of bedding himself in, he is on the cusp of being accorded a rare privilege (an Indian Test cap) that has only previously been conferred on 316 men in more than nine decades since India first played a Test match.

There is little to suggest that, his middling first-class record (1,957 runs in 29 matches) notwithstanding, Sai Sudharsan will not hit the ground running in Test match cricket. He has the game to do so, orthodox and organised and effective and efficient, and he is high on confidence, both given his recent heroics and the fact that his captain at the Titans is also India's new Test captain. He won't look for preferential treatment because that's not how the world of competitive sports works, but he will feed off his understanding with Gill, which translated to upwards of 900 runs as an opening pair in IPL 2025.

Sai Sudharsan will get at least one, most likely two, warm-up fixtures to hit his straps before the Test series, starting probably with a four-day unofficial 'Test' against England Lions starting in Northampton this Friday. It may or may not be an audition, depending on whether the team management has already firmed up its plans or whether it is looking for cues (India 'A' captain Abhimanyu Easwaran is also in the Test 18) before settling on personnel for the Leeds opener, but Sai Sudharsan will approach it as if his Test career depends on it. Perhaps it does, who knows. Among other things, Sai Sudharsan has already revealed his unflappability in the face of pressure, imaginary or otherwise. Why should it be any different now?

THE GIST

- The soft-spoken left-hander doesn't have the most intimidating of First-Class records; in an era where an average of 50 in domestic first-class cricket doesn't really mean too much, he only tips the scales at 39.93 after 29 outings
- Nearly three decades back, a classy left-handed Indian announced himself in Test cricket with a magnificent century on debut at Lord's. Sourav Ganguly. Exactly 29 years ago on June 20 (the same date the Leeds Test will start)
- He won't look for preferential treatment because that's not how the world of competitive sports works, but he will feed off his understanding with Gill, which translated to upwards of 900 runs as an opening pair in IPL 2025

102 visitors take guided tour of Vidhana Soudha

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 102 visitors took the Guided Walking Tour of the Vidhana Soudha, organised by the Department of Tourism in the State, as the city's iconic landmark opened its gates to public on Sunday.

Of the total four tours conducted a day, two were conducted in Kannada while two more were conducted in English. Bookings were open on the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) website for four slots with a maximum capacity of 30 members per slot.

While 67 men and 53 women (120 in total) had initially booked the slots, only 102 participated in the tour on Sunday.

Timing

The guided tour, which is a joint initiative of the Department of Tourism in association with the Speaker's Office - Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) and Vidhana Soudha Security Division, will take place every Sunday and second and fourth Saturdays of the month in designated time slots between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The entry fee for the tour is ₹50 per person and free for children under the age of 16 years.

IPL craze: Restaurants, pubs in city sold out for final day

Most of them are expecting two or three times more than the usual footfall on the day

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

The restobars and pubs in the city are in celebratory mood as the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) team has entered the finals of Indian Premier League (IPL) It has come as a blessing in disguise, they say, as most of them are expecting two or three times more than usual footfall on the final match day, which is June 3.

"On a regular Tuesday, our footfall is only around 350 to 400 covers. But on the final day, we are expecting at least 700 to 800 people as we do not have any cover charge and are open to all," said Vinay Chandrashekhar, partner at Long Boat Brewing Co., Marathahalli.

Alister Braganza, Senior Regional Business Manager, South, Impressario which owns SOCIAL, which has multiple outlets in the city, said that the footfall on Tuesday is expected to be three times more than a regular weekday.

"We were filled across outlets on the day of Qualifier match itself. The crowd is going to be even higher for finals," he said.

To enhance the match viewing experience, most restaurants in the city have decided to erect gaint LED screens on their premises, introduce some new items on the menu, play popular Kannada songs, distributing sparklers and some are even organising face painting and such activities.

The final match is scheduled to be held on Tuesday. FILE PHOTO

> The city is going to be chock-a-block on that day and hence we are advising our patrons to not drive but take cabs or public transport
> **CHETHAN HEGDE**
> Head, Bengaluru chapter, NRAI

"We are putting up 8 ft by 12 ft LED screen in a special area which can be viewed from both the floors," Mr. Chandrashekhar shared. He also said that a 32-inch pizza has also been introduced as large groups of people are expected to gather on the day. Red-coloured shots representing RCB's jersey colours to big snack platters and beer buckets are some of the other items restaurants are preparing for Tuesday.

Early bookings

The hospitality industry, which has been facing several issues of late including the rising prices of beer, feels IPL has been a saviour for them this year considering the home team's good form.

"We have 300 reservations for dinner and all of them have already sold out. We are keeping a few covers for walk-ins. The moment RCB reached finals, we got a lot of bookings," said Fino Frangline, co-founder of Mykos Craft Kitchen and Bar, Bannerghatta Road and 21st Amendment Gastrobar, Indiranagar.

"Our Indiranagar outlet, which is in the heart of the city was constantly sold out for RCB matches. On the day RCB won the Qualifier, within an hour, we were sold out for the final match day," he added.

As most venues have already sold out, cricket enthusiasts are also finding it difficult to find places where they can go for a screening.

"I stay close to J.P. Nagar and there are plenty of options. But I am sure the regulars will throng those places, and it is looking impossible to get a reservation anywhere for the match day. I am planning to go to one of the lesser popular restobars as a walk-in and hope to find a table," said Sirish M. Kumar, an RCB fan.

With most restaurants expected to be jam-packed on Tuesday, restraunteurs are requesting their patrons to take public transport.

"The city is going to be chock-a-block on that day and hence, we are advising our patrons to not drive but take cabs or public transport. Parking is also going to be an issue if there are too many vehicles," said Chethan Hegde, who heads the Bengaluru chapter of National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI).

Residents of LBS Nagar hold slogan march against illegal waste dumping

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A slogan march being staged by the residents of LBS Nagar on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Over 100 residents of LB Shastri Nagar in East Bengaluru, gathered on Sunday morning to participate in a slogan march against the illegal dumping of waste on public roads. The march was aimed at raising awareness and demanding immediate action from authorities to tackle the escalating garbage crisis and related issues plaguing the area.

The rally saw participation from senior citizens, and youth alike, holding placards and chanting slogans on cleanliness and environmental preservation. The focus was primarily on key problem zones, particularly near Ganesh Temple Road, LBS Main Road, and Ayyappa Swamy Temple, in the stretch between two apartments -- Aditya Soigne and Srinidhi Central Park.

The residents, participating in the march, highlighted the growing menace of indiscriminate dumping, with everything from household garbage to sofas, commodes, and even animal waste being thrown along the roads, particularly in the BEML land stretch. This has not only resulted in foul smells and health hazards but also attracted stray dogs, cows, and even eagles, creating a concerning situation for the community, they said.

"We at LBS Nagar, along with more than 100 residents, gathered together on Sunday morning to bring awareness to people around us to keep our area clean and healthy. Unfortunately, people continue to litter the corners, especially near the temples and the main road. It's high time we act collectively," said Sneha Shivaram, one of the organisers.

As part of the awareness campaign, posters detailing best practices for waste segregation and disposal were circulated.

Automobile shop damaged in accidental fire

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An accidental fire at an automobile shop on J.C. Road damaged goods and materials worth over ₹1 crore on Saturday.

The fire was first noticed by the staff of a neighbouring shop, who alerted the police at around 9 p.m. The police called the fire control room, following which two tenders along with fire and emergency service personnel rushed to the spot and put out the flames after three hours of operation.

No one was injured in the mishap.

The S.J. Park police have registered a case and are investigating further to ascertain the exact cause of the fire.

From Page One

Record rain in May

A scene in Mangaluru during the heavy rains on May 30.
H.S. MANJUNATH

During this period, Karnataka received 322.2 mm of rainfall and the previous highest was 255.5 mm (2022). Coastal Karnataka and north-interior Karnataka recorded 835.2 mm and 231.8 mm of rainfall respectively, and the previous highest for these two sub-divisions was 706.5 mm recorded in 1918 and 189.1 mm in 1943.

The 10 districts which received record rainfall during March to May are Bagalkot 199.2 mm; Bidar 277 mm; Vijayapura 213.4 mm; Chikkamagaluru 554.4 mm; Kalaburagi 243.8 mm; Dakshina Kannada 1112.7 mm; Koppal 203.3 mm; Raichur 184.4 mm; Udupi 1055.6 mm, and Yadgir 248.6 mm.

The previous highest for these districts was Bagalkot 170.6 mm recorded in 1958; Bidar 248. mm in 2018; Vijayapura 163.4 mm in 1933; Chikkamagaluru 409.5 mm in 1955; Kalaburagi 220.9 mm in 1918; Dakshina Kannada 859.4 mm in 1918; Koppal 197.8 mm in 1904; Raichur 171.6 mm in 1990; Udupi 1054.2 mm in 1918, and Yadgir 201.4 mm in 1903.

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EXTRAORDINARY
PART-II Section 3 Sub-Section (ii)
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NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru, the 15th May 2025

S.O. 2203(E).-In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (I) of Section 20 A of the Railway Act 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the schedul e annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special railway project, in lieu of Level crossing No. 35 for constnlction of Two lane ROB with Service Road", in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intenrion to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(I) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project, Tumakuru for ROB I RUB's in lieu of level crossing No. 35 for construction of Two lane ROB with Service Road in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20 D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this noritication arc available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagcre Railway project, Tumakuru

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project of bridges in lieu of Level crossing No. 35 for construction of Two lane ROB with Service Road in the state of Kamataka.

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Beneficiary	Extent (in Acres-Guntas) Total (A-G)	A Kharab (A-G)	B Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	Classi-fication of Land
District: Tumakuru **Hobli:** Urdigere							**Taluk:** Tumakuru **Village:** Kyathsandra
1	83/Block I	Citizen Accessibility	0-02	-	-	0-02	CA Land
2	83/3	K.N. Gopal S/o. Late Naraseeyappa	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Dry
3	83/5	Susheela. V W/o. K.N. Jayaramaiah	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Dry
4	83/6	K.N. Krishnappa S/o. Late Naraseeyappa	0-01	-	-	0-01	Dry
5	83/Block 2	Layout Road	0-01	-	-	0-01	Road
6	83/Block 3	Tata Lot (Park)	0-01	-	-	0-01	Park
7	84/4A	Narayanappa S/o. Naraseeyappa, Bhoga Narasimhaiah S/o. K.N. Narasanna, Lakshmamma W/o. Late K.N. Narasanna, Krishnamurthy S/o. Late K.N. Narasanna	0-04	-	-	0-04	Dry
8	84/9	Ananth Athiri S/o. A. Rajaram	0-04	-	-	0-04	Dry
		Total	**0-15**	**-**	**-**	**0-15**	**-**
District: Tumakuru **Hobli:** Urdigere							**Taluk:** Tumakuru **Village:** Thimlapura **(Mydala Village Road & Kyathsandra yard)**
1	1/1	C. Chikagangaiah S/o. Late Chikkanna, Krishnamurthy S/o. Late Chikkanna, Kalavathi W/o. Late Gangadhar	0-00 1/4	-	-	0-00 1/4	Dry
2	1/1	C. Chikagangaiah S/o. Late Chikkanna, Krishnamurthy S/o. Late Chikkanna, Kalavathi W/o. Late Gangadhar	0-01 3/4	-	-	0-01 3/4	Dry
3	2	Famidha Khanum W/o. Late Abdul Wazeed, Yakbal Ahamed S/o. Late Abdul Basid Sab Uruf Abdul Baseeth	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Dry
4	3/1	Veena W/o. Late Nataraju, K.N. Manohar S/o. Late V. Nagaraju, K.N. Mahesh S/o. Late K.V. Nagaraju	0-00 1/4	-	-	0-00 1/4	Dry
5	3/2	Famidha Khanum W/o. Late Abdul Wazeed, Yakbal Ahmed S/o. Late Abdul Basid Sab Uruf Abdul Baseeth	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Dry
6	3/2	Famidha Khanum W/o. Late Abdul Wazeed, Yakbal Ahmed S/o. Late Abdul Basid Sab Uruf Abdul Baseeth	0-01	-	-	0-01	Dry
7	4/3	T. Umadevi D/o. Gangamma	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
8	4/4, 4/5, 4/6	Park	0-03	-	-	0-03	Park
9	4/4, 4/5, 4/6	Layout Road	0-01	-	-	0-01	Layout Road
10	4/9	B. Ramesh S/o. Buddhathimmaiah	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Residentially Converted
		Total	**0-12 1/2**	**-**	**-**	**0-12 1/2**	**-**
District: Tumakuru **Hobli:** Urdigere							**Taluk:** Tumakuru **Village:** Basavapattana
1	16/2C Block 1	Siddharaju S/o. Late Shankaraiah	0-01	-	-	0.01	Dry
2	16/4 Block 2	Seenappa S/o. Narayanappa, K.C. Lakshmidevamma W/o. Sri. Ramachandra, K.S. Prameela W/o. R. Govindaraju	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Residentially Converted
3	23	Praveen Kumar	303 Sq.ft.	-	-	303 Sq.ft.	Site
4	Layout Road	Road	231 Sq.ft.	-	-	231 Sq.ft.	Road
5	30	Hanumantharaju	413 Sq.ft	-	-	413 Sq.ft.	Site
6	31	Venugopal	444 Sq.ft.	-	-	444 Sq.ft.	Site
7	15/2	Thimmappa S/o. Thimmakka	0-00 1/4	-	-	0-00 1/4	Dry
8	15/5	C. Chikkagangaiah S/o. Chikkanna	0-00 1/2	-	-	0-00 1/2	Dry
9	15/25	Narasegowda S/o. Narasimhaiah	0-00 1/2	-	-	0-00 1/2	Dry
10	15/27	Premkumari W/o. Shivakumar	0-00 1/4	-	-	0-00 1/4	Dry
11	15	Road	0-00 1/4	-	-	0-00 1/4	Road
12	15/37	Chandrahas S/o. Late M. Eshwar, R.K. Vasanthi W/o. Chandrahas	43.00 Sq.ft.	-	-	43.00Sq.ft	Site
		Total	**0-04+1434 Sq.ft**	**-**	**-**	**0.04+1434 Sq.ft.**	

ABSTRACT

Sl. No.	Village	Classification	Extent (In Acres-Guntas & In Sq.Ft) Total (A-G & Sq.Ft)	A Kharab (A-G & Sq.Ft)	B Kharab (A-G & Sq.Ft)	Balance (A-G & Sq.Ft)
1	Kyathsandra	Road	0-01	-	-	0-01
		Dry Land	0-11	-	-	0-11
		Park	0-01	-	-	0-01
		CA Land	0-02	-	-	0-02
		Total	**0-15**	**-**	**-**	**0-15**
2	Thimlapura (Mydala Village Road & Kyathsandra Yard)	Park	0-03	-	-	0-03
		Layout Road	0-01	-	-	0-01
		Residentially Converted	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4
		Dry Land	0-07 3/4	-	-	0-07 3/4
		Total	**0-12 1/2**	**-**	**-**	**0-12 1/2**
3	Basavapattana	Road	0-00 1/4 + 231 Sq.Ft.	-	-	0-00 1/4 + 231 Sq.Ft.
		Residentially Converted	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4
		Dry	0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2
		Site	1203 Sq.Ft.	-	-	1203 Sq.Ft.
		Total	**0-04 + 1434 Sq.Ft.**	**-**	**-**	**0-04 + 1434 Sq.Ft.**
Grand Total			**0-31 1/2 + 1434 Sq.Ft.**	**-**	**-**	**0-31 1/2 + 1434 Sq.Ft.**

*Compensation will not be fixed for Road, CA Land, Park, Layout Road measuring 0-08 1/4 + 231 Sq.Ft of land.

[No. W.27I/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727]
PUB/155/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **(C.P. Reddy, Dy. Chief Engineer/General), Bengaluru Cantonment, South Western Railway**

Indian summers are getting hotter, but have we lost the ability to adapt?

Indians once knew how to live with heat. From mud homes to sandstone courtyards, people designed spaces that cooled by default. Work began at sunrise, paused during peak heat, and resumed in the evening. In cities, water-cooled courtyards, stepwells, and screens created microclimates

Ajay Singh Nagpure

Many heat-related fatalities occur outside hospitals — homes, construction sites, or village farms — where medical aid and death certification may not be accessible. ANI

Every summer, a familiar question surfaces across India, echoing from homes to newsrooms: is it genuinely hotter, or have we simply become more sensitive? This isn't just some nostalgic lament or biological quirk. The evidence is clear and uncompromising: India's heat is intensifying, creeping in earlier, stretching longer, and striking deeper than ever before.

What's happening isn't a trick of perception. It's real. Heat waves, once occasional and brief, have become persistent forces reshaping daily life and work. According to the India Meteorological Department, a heat wave is declared when the temperature reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains or 30 degrees Celsius in the hills, with a deviation of 4.5 degrees Celsius or more above normal for at least two consecutive days. These thresholds, once rare, are quickly becoming the standard during summer months. In states like Odisha and Rajasthan, what used to be brief seasonal heat spikes now stretch into longer, more frequent episodes, cumulatively spanning months. Between June 2010 and the summer of 2024, cumulative heat wave days soared from roughly 177 to 536 – a staggering increase of over 200%.

Heat wave days count the total number of days on which heat wave conditions are recorded across all affected regions. Since heat waves strike different places at different times, these days are summed nationally, so the total may surpass the length of the summer season in any single location.

Excess mortality analysis

Despite the increasing severity of heat waves, official data likely underrepresents their true impact. Various government departments collect and report heat-related deaths using different methods and sources, which can lead to variations in the numbers presented. Between 2000 and 2020, India recorded 20,615 heatstroke deaths, according to government records. However, many heat-related fatalities occur outside hospitals – at homes, construction sites, or village farms, for example – where medical assistance and formal death certification may not always be accessible. As a result, deaths triggered by heat are often recorded under broader causes like cardiac arrest or respiratory failure.

The absence of standardised, mandatory heat-related death reporting and real-time surveillance means many such deaths remain uncounted, creating challenges for public health planning and response. Independent researchers and organisations have sought to address this gap using excess mortality analysis: comparing actual deaths during heatwave periods with long-term seasonal averages.

While some critics question the accuracy of these estimates and the methods used, excess mortality analysis remains a widely accepted and robust epidemiological tool. It captures both direct and indirect deaths related to heat, including those misclassified under other causes such as cardiac arrest or kidney failure, which are often missed in official counts.

For instance, the Global Burden of Disease study estimated approximately 155,937 heat-related deaths in India in 2021, encompassing fatalities from heat waves, prolonged exposure to high temperatures, and heat-aggravated conditions. Given the known underreporting in official data, such model-based estimates provide a more comprehensive and realistic picture of the true human toll of extreme heat.

Living with heat

The human toll of heat waves is paralleled by significant economic damage. The 2022 heatwave reduced wheat yields in key producing regions by approximately 4.5%, with some districts experiencing losses up to 15%. This disruption contributed to inflationary pressures on food commodities worldwide. Simultaneously, the heatwave triggered a power crisis as electricity demand surged to an all-time high of 207 GW, straining the grid and causing blackouts in some areas. Labour productivity in outdoor sectors such as construction and agriculture suffered dramatically, as workers faced an impossible choice between enduring hazardous heat exposure or forfeiting income.

According to the McKinsey Global Institute, heat-related productivity losses could jeopardise between 2.5% and 4.5% of India's annual Gross Domestic Product by 2030, underscoring the urgent need for adaptive policies.

Ironically, India once knew how to live with heat. From the mud homes of Odisha to the sandstone courtyards of Rajasthan, generations designed spaces to cool without electricity. Rural routines followed solar rhythms: work began at sunrise, paused during peak heat, and resumed in the evening. Architecture used breathable materials like lime, thatch, and mud, keeping homes cooler than today's concrete structures. In cities, water-cooled courtyards, shaded alleys, stepwells (baoli), and perforated stone screens (jaali) created microclimates. These systems weren't folklore: they were practical responses to climatic conditions, embedded in culture and community.

A vivid example of this traditional wisdom is Navtapa, meaning "nine days of heat." Observed from May 25 to June 2, it marks the sun's entry into Rohini Nakshatra and was considered the most intense stretch of the summer. While rooted in astrology, Navtapa aligns closely with modern heat wave data. In this time, communities avoided heavy meals, rested during the midday, drank hydrating mixes like buttermilk and *sattu*, and provided shade and water for livestock. These practices, while culturally grounded, reflect sound physiological and environmental sense, and are today supported by modern science.

Why did these traditions wane? Not because they were ineffective but because modern development models evolved differently. Post-liberalisation planning favoured speed and scale, often overlooking climate sensitivity. Glass façades and concrete homes replaced breathable structures. Labour shifted from flexible agricultural cycles to more rigid, outdoor, informal urban jobs. Planning codes like the National Building Code don't mandate passive cooling. Real-estate finance rarely supports traditional materials. Without institutional support or economic incentives, these practices couldn't be sustained or scaled.

Invisible deaths

Meanwhile, India's formal response to heat is gradually evolving. Notably, Ahmedabad's heat action plan, implemented in 2014, has been associated with a significant reduction in heat-related mortality in the city, with an estimated 1,190 deaths avoided annually in its initial years.

Cities such as Bhubaneswar and Nagpur have initiated efforts to increase green cover and promote rooftop measures aimed at reducing heat absorption. However, many heat action plans remain largely advisory, often lacking binding mandates, dedicated budgets, or clear accountability mechanisms.

Real transformation demands holistic efforts. Building codes must evolve, and urban and rural designs should be inclusive by default. Clear roles for weather, disaster management, and local bodies are essential. Coordination lets India shift from scrambling through heat emergencies to managing them with resilience

Only a few cities have appointed trained climate officers or integrated heat considerations into their urban master plans. Public cooling shelters are limited in number, and awareness campaigns frequently rely on digital platforms that may not effectively reach regional language speakers, migrants, daily wage workers, and non-literate populations.

The rural landscape tells a tougher story. Despite most heat-vulnerable populations residing there, India still lacks a solid rural heat governance framework. Key programmes – including the Gram Panchayat Development Plans, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, and the National Health Mission – barely touch on heat issues. Unlike cities, villages have no counterpart to urban heat action plans. Panchayats often struggle with limited funding, staffing, and training, leaving them ill-equipped to set up cooling measures or modify work timings. Age-old water bodies, tree cover, and stepwells fade away, unsupported and overlooked. Many rural deaths remain invisible, depriving policymakers of crucial data.

Communicating heat risk

Beyond the bricks and mortar, a deeper gap persists: a disconnect between science and how people actually experience heat. Most don't grasp the "feels like" temperature, which factors in humidity, solar radiation, and wind along with air temperature. So when the thermometer says 42 degrees Celsius, the body might be battling conditions closer to 50 degrees Celsius. That hidden burden, far beyond mere numbers, causes dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke. Public health messages rarely translate this into everyday terms, leaving too many unaware and vulnerable to the real dangers.

Equally important is how heat alerts are communicated. In many parts of India, advisories are issued in Hindi or English, shared via apps and social media that assume literacy, smartphone access, and digital fluency. This approach may exclude millions, especially the rural poor, migrants, and older citizens. Heat warnings should not be confined to digital platforms. They must be delivered through oral announcements, local radio, posters, community workers, and trusted institutions in regional languages.

Inclusive communication must reach every corner, every community. Otherwise, awareness remains partial and fragmented. India stands at a crossroads with a chance to harness the wisdom and experience already woven into its fabric. Immediately, districts – urban and rural alike – can start rolling out heat action plans tailored to their realities, guided by the Disaster Management Act 2005. These won't be abstract policies but grounded actions: pinpointing heat hotspots, setting up shaded rest spots, ensuring water access, and sending alerts that people trust and understand.

Looking beyond the immediate, national programmes like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, and the National Health Mission offer a canvas to embed climate sensitivity. Think reflective rooftops, more trees, and natural ventilation: elements that cool homes and livelihoods alike. With financial channels like the Fifteenth Finance Commission and District Mineral Funds, local governments gain the muscle to scale these interventions fairly and effectively.

Down the line, real transformation demands more than isolated efforts. Building codes must evolve to favour passive cooling, urban and rural designs should be inclusive by default, and institutions must learn to speak the same language. Clear roles for the India Meteorological Department, National Disaster Management Authority, the State Disaster Management Authorities, municipal bodies, and village Panchayats are essential. Such coordination lets India shift from scrambling through heat emergencies to anticipating and managing them with resilience.

Knowledge isn't the bottleneck. India's heritage of traditional practices alongside modern science forms a rich foundation. The challenge lies in blending these, backed by political will and cohesive policy, to ready India for its hottest years ahead.

(Ajay S. Nagpure is an urban systems scientist at the Urban Nexus Lab at Princeton University. an3173@princeton.edu)

Musk plans 2,000 launches in two years. REUTERS

Musk retains plan to fly Starship to Mars in 2026 despite setbacks

Reuters

Two days after the latest in a string of test-flight setbacks for his big new Mars spacecraft, Starship, Elon Musk said on May 29 he foresees the futuristic vehicle making its first uncrewed voyage to the red planet at the end of next year.

Mr. Musk presented a detailed Starship development timeline in a video posted online by his Los Angeles area-based rocket company, SpaceX, a day after saying he was departing the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump as head of a tumultuous campaign to slash government bureaucracy.

The billionaire entrepreneur had said earlier that he was planning to scale back his role in government to focus greater attention on his various businesses, including SpaceX and electric car and battery maker Tesla.

Mr. Musk acknowledged that his latest timeline for reaching Mars hinged on whether Starship can accomplish a number of challenging technical feats during its flight-test development, particularly a post-launch refuelling manoeuvre in earth orbit.

The end of 2026 would coincide with a slim window that occurs once every two years when Mars and the earth align around the sun for the closest trip between the two planets, which would take seven to nine months to transit by

Musk envisions launching 1,000 to 2,000 Starships to Mars every two years to man a permanent human settlement. NASA is to use Starship to return humans to the moon around 2027

spacecraft.

Mr. Musk gave his company a 50% chance of meeting that deadline. If Starship were not ready by that time, SpaceX would wait another two years before trying again, he suggested in the video.

The first flight to Mars would carry a simulated crew consisting of one or more robots of the Tesla-built humanoid Optimus design, with the first human crews following in the second or third landings. Mr. Musk said he envisioned eventually launching 1,000 to 2,000 ships to Mars every two years to quickly establish a self-sustaining permanent human settlement.

NASA is currently aiming to return humans to the surface of the moon aboard Starship around 2027, more than 50 years after its last manned lunar landings of the Apollo era, as a stepping stone to ultimately launching astronauts to Mars sometime in the 2030s.

Mr. Musk has previously said he was aiming to send an uncrewed SpaceX vehicle to the red planet by 2018 and was targeting 2024 to launch a first crewed mission there.

The SpaceX founder was scheduled to deliver a livestream from the company's Texas launch site on May 27 night, following a ninth test flight of Starship that evening.

But the webcast was canceled without notice after Starship spun out of control and disintegrated in a fireball about 30 minutes after launch without achieving some of its most important test goals. Two test flights in January and March failed in more spectacular fashion, with the spacecraft blowing to pieces on ascent moments after liftoff.

Mr. Musk shrugged off the latest mishap, saying it produced a lot of "good data to review," and promised a faster launch cadence for the next several test flights.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Transport Dept. to give work order to roll out smart cards for DLs, RCs

These advanced cards are seen as a leap forward in modernising transport documentation and securing data storage

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Transport officials revealed that the selected firm is expected to receive the official work order within 15 days. FILE PHOTO

In a major technological upgrade, the Karnataka Transport Department has finalised a vendor to design and produce next-generation smart cards for driving licences (DLs) and vehicle registration certificates (RCs). These cards will feature embedded chips and QR codes, offering improved durability, enhanced data security, and easier verification processes.

Transport officials revealed that the selected firm is expected to receive the official work order within 15 days. The new smart cards will replace the current polyvinyl chloride (PVC) cards that have been in use for years. These advanced cards are seen as a leap forward in modernising transport documentation, combining robust materials, and secure data storage methods.

"The smart cards will be manufactured using polycarbonate, a high-grade material renowned for its strength and resilience. In addition to an embedded chip and a QR code, the cards will include laser-engraved text to prevent the wear and fading commonly seen in PVC cards. This approach ensures that the cards remain legible and tamper-resistant over their lifespan," a senior transport department official told *The Hindu*. Officials highlighted that Karnataka is aligning itself with several other Indian States, such as Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Himachal Pradesh, which have already introduced similar smart card systems for their transport documents.

"The smart DL will store up to 25 distinct data fields, including the licence holder's name, photograph, date of birth, blood group, mobile number, address, licence validity, and emergency contact. Similarly, the upgraded RC will display essential vehicle-related data such as registration number, registration date, validity, chassis and engine numbers, and owner details on the front. The back will carry a QR code that provides extended information, including the vehicle's make, model, type, seating capacity, and financing details," official added.

The embedded QR code will allow quick digital access to basic user information by police and transport officials during inspections, eliminating the need for manual document checks. For more detailed data, authorised personnel can use a dedicated chip reader, thereby simplifying procedures in cases of traffic violations, accidents, or document theft.

To maintain consistency and quality across all cards, printing and production will be centralised at the Transport Commissioner's head office in Bengaluru, according to officials. "This centralised approach will help ensure all smart cards adhere to uniform security and design standards. It will also streamline logistics, reducing delays and ensuring faster delivery to applicants across the State," the official explained.

KMF launches new varieties of cakes and muffins

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Shivaswamy B., managing director, Karnataka Milk Federation, unveiling 18 new Nandini products during the World Milk Day celebrations at KMF central office, in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), under its Nandini brand, introduced 18 new products across three categories - slice cake, bar cake, and muffins - to the market on the occasion of World Milk Day celebrations on Sunday.

Every year, to mark the occasion, milk unions across the State conduct awareness programmes in schools, anganwadis and even orphanages about milk.

This year, KMF conducted a paneer cooking competition in the wake of rising cases of adulteration of paneer.

More than 30 people from across the State participated in the competition and Mahalakshmi from Bengaluru was declared as the winner and was awarded a cash prize of ₹50,000. Vishika Keshav from Mangaluru came second and won a cash prize of ₹30,000 and 13-year-old Vinodini. B. won the third place and a cash prize of ₹20,000 for her unique 'paneer bomb' recipe.

Increase consumption

Speaking during the celebrations, B. Shivaswamy, managing director, KMF said, "The per capita milk consumption, according to our circulation data, is around 240 ml in Karnataka. We want to increase awareness about the benefits of milk consumption and encourage people to consume milk be it as milk itself, curds or even ice cream." While customers often complain about the availability of newly launched products, especially the whey protein based dosa and idli batter, the officials of KMF assured that the 18 new products are well in stock and will be available everywhere. "We have begun placements since last week and they are available in all outlets," an official said.

Bus driver booked for trying to run over woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Screengrab from a video showing a BMTC bus driver trying to run over a woman

The Cubbon Park police registered a case against a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus driver on Sunday who allegedly tried to run over a woman in public view over a road-rage incident on Kasturba Road, close to the police station recently.

The incident occurred on May 23, when the woman driving a car allegedly crashed into the bus that was being driven in a rash and negligent manner, said the police.

The woman then stopped her car at the next signal to question the driver's unruly behaviour, and the duo had an argument.

At this point, the driver reportedly tried to run over the woman. Fortunately, she was able to escape in the nick of time.

The entire incident was captured on the dashcam of the bus. The woman later complained to the Cubbon Park police, based on which the latter registered a case of rash and negligent driving against the bus driver.

The accused driver, identified as Prashanth, has been suspended.

Reacting to the incident, Transport Minister R. Ramalinga Reddy said that strict action will be taken against the driver for his actions.

In a statement, the BMTC said that they are committed to ensuring the safety of passengers and motorists, and any untoward behaviour from the staff will not be tolerated.

Hemavati canal project: 13 FIRs against MLAs, seers over protest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The protest started with a group of around 400 people at D. Rampura village in Gubbi taluk

The Gubbi police have registered 13 FIRs against protesters, including MLAs, local leaders, and seers of Mutts, involved in a protest against the Hemavati canal project on Saturday.

A police inspector and several of his staff sustained injuries in stone-pelting when they tried to disperse the protesters. Several vehicles were damaged in the melee.

The protest, which started with a group of around 400 people at D. Rampura village in Gubbi taluk, blocked the national highway.

The protesters burnt tyres to block the traffic. Soon, the crowd swelled to around 4,000, led by local leaders and seers of Mutts and their supporters. The protesters shouted slogans and stopped the vehicles plying on the highway.

The police had to struggle hard to disperse the violent protesters. Many of them were detained and were charged for offences, including blocking the highway, burning tyres on the roads, pelting stones, damaging vehicles, and preventing the police from discharging their duties.

The protesters were opposing the diversion of the canal to flow the water to Kunigal taluk, a police officer said.

Additional forces

The police later cleared the highway and deployed additional forces there and in sensitive areas to monitor the law and order situation.

'Missing valuables' from locker found intact, says SBI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Gold valuables which allegedly went missing from a locker of the State Bank of India (SBI) were found intact, said the bank in a statement.

In a complaint filed with the Sadashivanagar police, one Bindu C.D., who alleged theft of valuables from her locker maintained at the SBI, Dollars Colony branch, New BEL Road, said that approximately 145 grams of gold ornaments, diamond jewellery, and other valuables stored in her locker had allegedly gone missing.

A first information report (FIR) was registered at Sadashivanagar police station, and a formal investigation was commenced .

During the course of the investigation, the police conducted a spot inspection on the bank premises, in the presence of the complainant and independent witnesses, and bank officials concerned.

"During the said proceedings, the complainant personally accessed her locker. It was conclusively established, in her presence as well as that of the independent witnesses, that all articles reportedly missing were, in fact, present and intact inside the locker. It is pertinent to note that the complainant had inadvertently overlooked certain items which were stored deep within the locker," said the SBI statement.

According to the official release, the entire process was duly videographed by the investigating authorities to ensure transparency, credibility, and evidentiary value.

The investigation revealed no signs of any unauthorised access, tampering, or criminal trespass into the said locker. Consequently, the allegation of theft was found to be baseless and devoid of factual substance, the release added.

One8 Commune among places raided for smoking law breach

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cracking down on bars and restaurants and public places allowing public smoking, the Cubbon Park police conducted a series of raids and booked as many as five bars and restaurants, including One8 Commune co-owned by cricketer Virat Kohli.

Based on a tip-off, a team of police led by police sub-inspector, Ashwini G., conducted surprise checks and booked the manager and staff of One8 Commune situated on Kasturba Road, hardly 200 metres away from the police station. This is the second time the Kohli co-owned restaurant has been booked. The Cubbon park police in July last year booked three restaurants in the central business district (CBD), including One8 Commune, for operating beyond permissible hours.

The police also booked managers and staff of Flo, Coco's Bar and Restaurant and Social on Church Street and Spirit Bar and Restaurant on Lavelle Road.

The accused have been booked under section 4 that prohibits smoking in any public place and section 21 (punishment for violating the provisions of Section 4) of the COTPA (Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act).

The police have also launched a special drive to create awareness about the sale of tobacco products at shops and commercial establishments. The police are asking the shopkeepers to get licence to sell tobacco products from the BBMP along with the trade licence and warned of legal action if they fail to do so. The police are roping in BBMP officials and police marshals for the awareness campaign.

Police Commissioner B. Dayananda had warned people against smoking in public and shops and commercial establishments to refrain from selling tobacco products in loose or to minors.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUN. 02		
RISE	05:53	SET 18:43
RISE	11:42	SET 00:00
TUESDAY, JUN. 03		
RISE	05:53	SET 18:43
RISE	12:30	SET 00:24
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 04		
RISE	05:53	SET 18:44
RISE	13:16	SET 01:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be sight warm. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Illegal gambling platforms pose a grave threat to Indian youth: Report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A report by CUTS (Consumer Unity & Trust Society) International has raised alarm over the explosive growth of illegal online gambling platforms in India, warning of serious threats to minors, young adults, and national financial integrity. With estimated annual deposits nearing $100 billion, the report urges immediate regulatory intervention to combat this growing menace.

It reveals that from April 2024 to March 2025, the top 15 illegal gambling platforms garnered over 5.4 billion visits through 40 mirror sites.

"These operators are exploiting India's advertisement and payment systems, siphoning off crores while putting Indian consumers at grave risk. The absence of regulatory safeguards has made India a fertile ground for these platforms," said Pradeep Mehta, secretary general of CUTS.

Targeting vulnerable

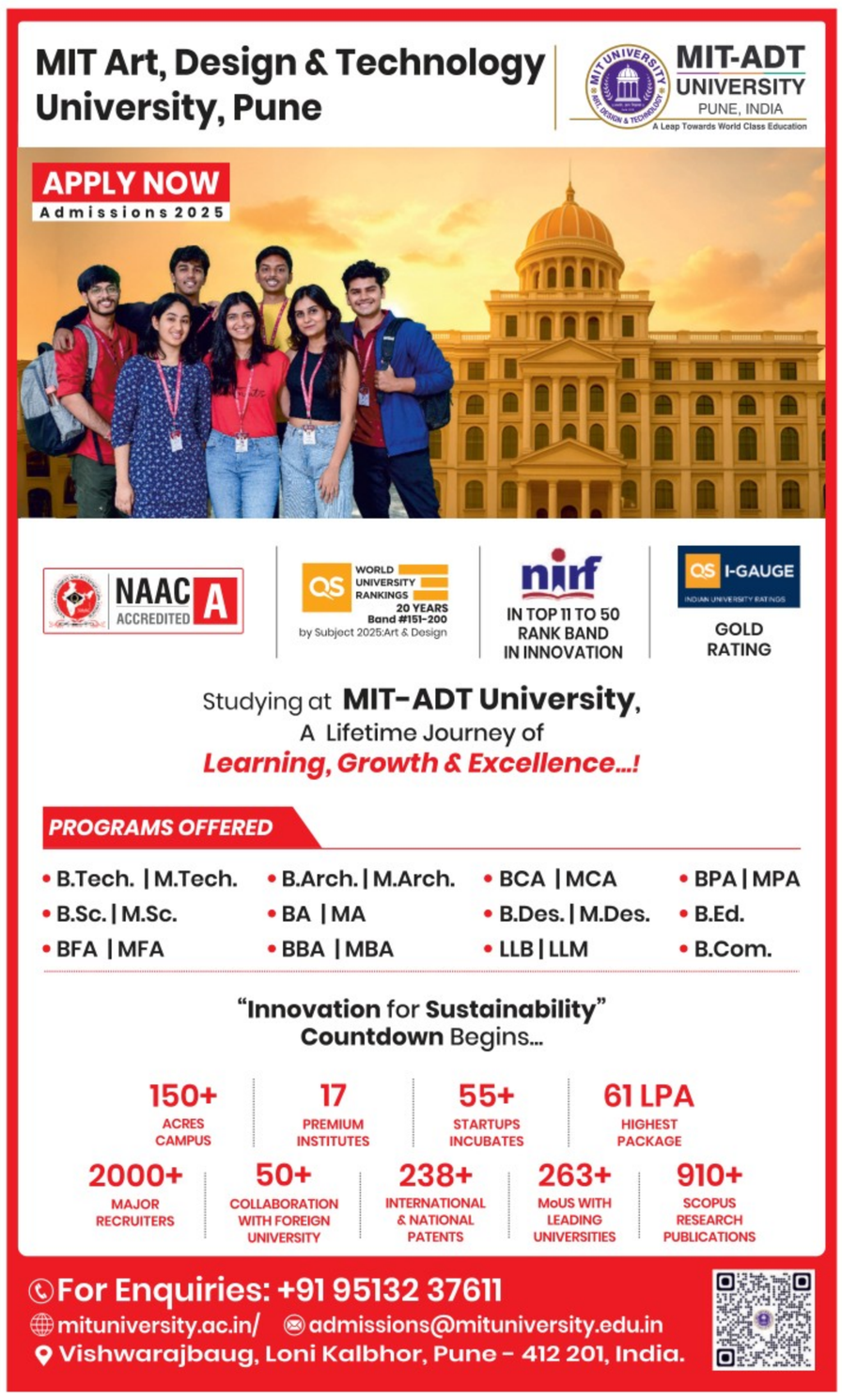
The report flags how illegal operators target vulnerable youth through immersive, high-stakes experiences, bypassing age and identity verification protocols. According to the report, a few platforms use psychological tactics to lure sensation-seeking users, while some offshore players even accept cash-on-delivery payments allowing minors to gamble without digital access or oversight.

The report further states that a large chunk of user traffic - over 66% - comes via direct URLs or private channels, suggesting a high degree of brand familiarity and trust.

Payment tactics

According to the report, illicit payment tactics include misuse of UPI, mule accounts, and sophisticated apps to move funds under the radar. While the Ministry of Finance has initiated investigations into nearly 700 offshore entities and blocked 357 sites, the report says much more needs to be done.

CUTS recommends a robust national framework backed by an inter-ministerial task force, collaboration with tech companies, public awareness campaigns, and behavioural research into gambling addiction. It also urges strong measures to monitor and block illegal websites and financial transactions. The report calls India's current approach "manual and reactive."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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The increase in gross GST collections in the month of May

16.4 In per cent. Gross GST collections rose to over ₹2.01 lakh crore in May, as per government data released on Sunday. This comes after a record-high Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in April, when revenues reached an all-time high of ₹2.37 lakh crore. PTI

Number of migrants who crossed the Channel on Saturday

1,194 More than a 1,000 migrants arrived in the U.K. after crossing the Channel in small boats, according to the British government, while French coastal authorities rescued 200 more. It is the highest number of migrants making the crossing in a day this year. AFP

The dip in power consumption in May compared to last year

4 In per cent. India's power consumption dipped over 4% to 148.71 billion units (BU) in May, compared to a year-ago period, mainly due to unseasonal rains and early arrival of monsoon. Power consumption was recorded at 155.15 BU in May 2024, according to official data. PTI

Number of penalties imposed by the RBI during FY25

353 The Reserve Bank of India took enforcement action against regulated entities (REs) and imposed 353 penalties aggregating to ₹54.78 crore in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025, for contraventions/non-compliance of provisions of statutes. PTI

Number of people arrested in France during celebrations

559 Two people were reported dead and 192 injured during the Champions League final celebrations in France. The interior ministry's assessment as of Sunday was that 559 people had been arrested, including 491 in Paris. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Is India the world's fourth largest economy?

The GDP of a country tells us very little about how its people live and work, how healthy or educated its people are, and how unequally its aggregate income is distributed. A much better way of comparing countries might be a set of indicators that help us meaningfully measure economic performance and social progress

ECONOMIC NOTES

R. Ramakumar

Over the past week, much media space was devoted to discussions around the size of India's economy relative to other economies of the world. These discussions were based on the new estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of various countries for 2024 by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and its annual projections from 2025 till 2030. As per these projections, India's GDP in 2025 was likely to be $4,187.03 billion, which will be marginally higher than the GDP of Japan at $4,186.43 billion. Thus, in all probability, India will be the fourth largest economy of the world in 2025 after the U.S., China and Germany.

These discussions have stirred the political pot as well. Government sources attributed the improved rank to the leadership capabilities of the Prime Minister. It was also argued that India could grow to be the third largest economy of the world in 2028, and a high-income, developed country (*viksit bharat*) by 2047.

The many GDPs

The GDP of a country tells us very little about how its people live and work, how healthy or educated its people are, and how unequally its aggregate income is distributed. GDP estimates also miss out on measuring several crucial aspects of economic activity that are not covered by markets, such as the unpaid work of women. Hence, there have been repeated calls to revise national account systems, end the predominant use of GDP to assess everything, and use other indicators that allow us to study socio-economic achievements better. Yet, the dominant use of GDP has continued in global and domestic discourse.

In recent years, the politicisation of statistical systems has clouded any objective assessment of India's economic status. The discussions around India's rank in GDP size are just an example. Comparison of GDP sizes across countries is a complex effort. International organisations and economists have spent decades trying to perfect a robust methodology for these comparisons. Consequently, there is no single GDP estimate for countries. There are several GDP estimates based on different methodologies and units.

The methodology of estimating GDP in different countries is largely standardised even as there are variations in the quality of data collection. But these estimates are available only in the national currencies of each country. So, how does one compare the GDP size of India and, say, the U.S.? To compare, one needs the GDP estimates of all countries to be in one common unit. This common unit is the U.S. dollar.

On determining the GDP

But problems remain. There are two ways of converting a GDP estimate in a national currency to a GDP estimate in U.S. dollars. First, one may use market exchange rates from the foreign exchange markets. At the time of writing this article, one dollar was valued at ₹85.69. One may simply divide India's nominal GDP by ₹85.69 to get a GDP estimate in U.S. dollars, and then repeat that for all other countries and rank them.

According to the GDP estimates based on market exchange rates, India was ranked the fifth largest economy from 2021 (Table 1 and Figure 1). Taken forward, the IMF projects that India will be the fourth largest economy in 2025 and the third largest economy in 2028. The U.S. is ranked first, and China is ranked second.

But is this the only method to compare GDP sizes? It is globally accepted that conversions based on market exchange rates are robust only when the outcomes are closely linked to the prevailing exchange rates. Transactions in the "current account" of an economy are a case in point, which involves the flow of financial resources across countries. For example, how much did each country export in value terms? How much remittances did international migrants from each country send back home?

The PPP comparison

When we try to compare GDP sizes across countries and time, market exchange rates deliver poorly. This is primarily because first, market exchange rates are highly volatile, which creates problems for stable temporal comparisons (see the fluctuations in Figure 1). Secondly, market exchange rates do not work well when "purchasing powers" of people are different between countries. For example, the price of a beer in New York may be $5 but only about ₹150 in Mumbai (or $1.80). The price of a Big Mac meal in McDonald's may be $12 in New York but only about ₹385 (or $4.50) in Mumbai. Thirdly, the prices of non-traded goods tend to be far cheaper than traded goods in developing countries than in developed countries. For example, the monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment may be about $4,000 in New York but only about ₹70,000 (or $824) in Mumbai. The price of a haircut in New York may be $30, but only about ₹200 (or $2.40) in Mumbai.

These differences across countries arise primarily because wages (and hence prices) are lower, and many non-traded sectors are labour-intensive, in developing countries than in the developed countries. If analysts ignore these differences, they will be underestimating the purchasing power of people in developing countries, and, hence, depressing their GDP estimates. This is why a second method is used to convert national currencies into dollars – 'PPP exchange rates', where PPP stands for Purchasing Power Parity. Here, the exchange rates used equate the cost of a "typical" basket of goods across countries. When converted to international dollars based on PPP exchange rates, the estimates of GDP for developing countries, where prices are relatively low, would rise. In 2024, the GDP of the U.S. was 7.5 times higher than India's GDP if the market exchange rates method was used. But it was only 1.8 times higher than India's GDP if the PPP exchange rates method was used.

If PPP-based GDP estimates are used to compare GDP sizes, an interesting finding emerges (see Table 2). India had already become the world's third largest economy in 2009 and has retained that rank for the past 16 years (see Figure 1). Also, IMF's PPP-based projections do not show any improvement in India's rank between 2024 and 2030. It turns out that the government has chosen to project and celebrate India's rank in GDP size based on market exchange rates – and not PPP exchange rates – only because the outcome suits its favoured political narrative.

Improving the comparisons

There is no doubt that the PPP method allows for a better comparison of GDP sizes than the market exchange rates method. However, the PPP method needs to be employed carefully so as to avoid misleading inferences. PPPs are used precisely because developing countries have lower wages, and hence lower prices and incomes, than in the developed countries. To cite an instance, about 76% of India's casual workers in agriculture and about 70% of India's casual workers in construction do not obtain even the prescribed minimum wages (as per ILO's India Employment Report 2024). In addition, countries like India have a large informal sector, which is marked by severe underemployment, and large numbers of unpaid female workers.

In other words, the poorer and the more underdeveloped a country is, the larger will be its "inflation" of GDP via the PPP route. Consequently, the fact that India was the world's third largest economy from 2009 itself must not delude anyone into believing that its GDP differentials with, say, the U.S. are rapidly narrowing, or that its GDP size is larger than that of Japan or Germany. An excellent example of such a misconception is the claim by Suman Berry, the Vice-Chairperson of the Niti Aayog, that India's GDP has already reached $15,000 billion (or $15 trillion) in PPP terms, which is more than thrice its GDP size at market exchange rates and constitutes half the size of the U.S. GDP.

India has a large GDP size, but it is also host to the world's largest population. One can boast about its GDP size only until someone sits down and divides the GDP by the population. The per capita GDP in India was $2,711 in 2024 in current dollar terms, which placed it at the lower end of the list of "lower middle-income countries". In the same year, the per capita GDP in Sri Lanka was $4,325, and in Bhutan was $3,913. In 1991, India had a higher per capita GDP at $304 than in Vietnam at $141. But by 2024, Vietnam's per capita GDP had grown to $4,536 while India's per capita GDP languished at $2,711. In terms of market exchange rates, India's rank in per capita GDP in 2024 was 144th among 196 countries. Even in terms of PPP international dollars, India's rank in per capita GDP in 2024 was 127th among 196 countries. Either way, we are faced with a "big economy illusion": India's large GDP size has very little to do with the well-being of its people.

A much better way of knowing if India is more developed or less developed than the U.S., China, Japan or Germany might be to compare a set of indicators across them that help us meaningfully measure economic performance and social progress – indicators that signify fundamental elements of life and work that citizens care about.

R. Ramakumar teaches at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

Measuring the economy

Comparison of GDP sizes across countries is a complex effort. International organisations and economists have spent decades trying to perfect a robust methodology for these comparisons. Consequently, there is no single GDP estimate for countries but several, based on different methodologies and units

Table 1: Ranks of the top 10 economies in nominal GDP at market exchange rates, 1990 to 2030, in U.S. dollars

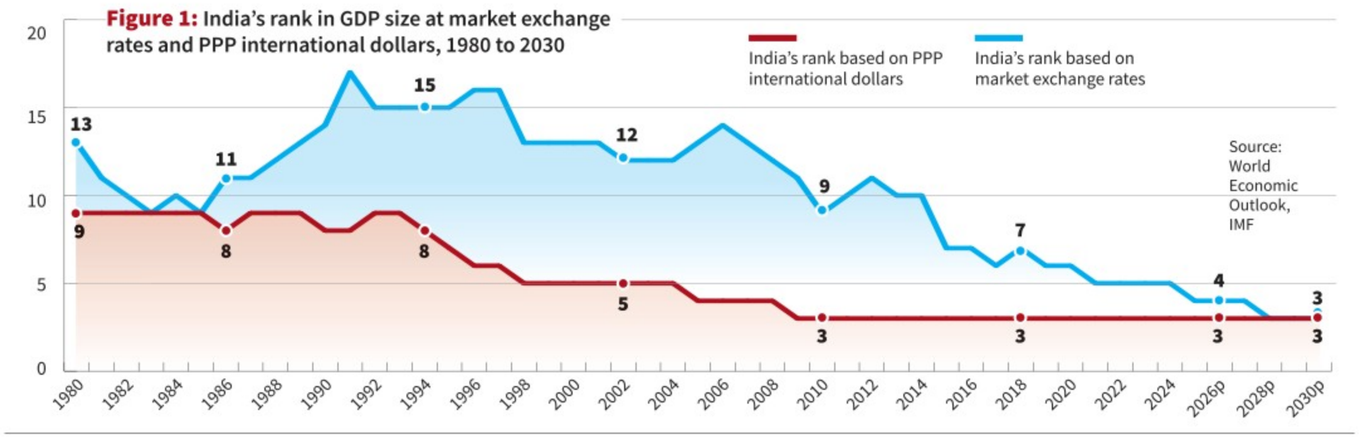
Country	1990	2000	2009	2024	2025p	2030p
United States	1	1	1	1	1	1
China	11	6	3	2	2	2
Germany	3	3	4	3	3	4
Japan	2	2	2	4	5	5
India	**14**	**13**	**11**	**5**	**4**	**3**
United Kingdom	5	4	6	6	6	6
France	4	5	5	7	7	7
Italy	6	7	7	8	8	9
Canada	7	8	10	9	9	8
Brazil	10	10	8	10	10	10

Table 2: Ranks of the top 10 economies in nominal GDP at PPP exchange rates, 1990 to 2030

Country	1990	2000	2009	2024	2025p	2030p
China	7	3	2	1	1	1
United States	1	1	1	2	2	2
India	**8**	**5**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**
Russian Federation	-	9	6	4	4	4
Japan	2	2	4	5	5	5
Germany	3	4	5	6	6	6
Brazil	9	10	8	7	8	8
Indonesia	13	14	12	8	7	7
France	5	7	7	9	9	10
United Kingdom	6	8	9	10	10	9

Note: Figures till 2024 are estimates, and afterwards are projections.

Figure 1: India's rank in GDP size at market exchange rates and PPP international dollars, 1980 to 2030



THE GIST

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Political slugfest breaks out over Hemavati river link canal project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government's decision to continue work on the Hemavati river link canal project in Tumakuru district has triggered a political slugfest with the Opposition accusing the Congress of diverting water to taluks of Bengaluru South district (earlier Ramanagara).

A day after a massive protest by BJP MLAs, farmers, and seers against the commencement of work on the project near Gubbi town in Tumakuru district, H.D. Ranganath, Kunigal MLA (Congress), issued a statement that the link canal was being developed for providing water to farmers and residents of Kunigal taluk and not Magadi or Ramanagara taluks.

Mr. Ranganath, who is also a relative of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, said that Kunigal taluk had been denied justice for the last 25 years. Now the work had commenced under the leadership of Mr. Shivakumar at an estimated cost of ₹615 crore in the first phase to ensure 3.01 tmcft of water to Kunigal. The total water allocated to the district was 24 tmcft, he said.

"The BJP and the JD(S) leaders have been misleading the public. I am ready to continue to fight and sacrifice my life for the completion of the link canal to bring water to Kunigal taluk," Mr. Ranganath declared.

B. Suresh Gowda, Tumakuru Rural MLA, G.B. Jyothi Ganesh, Tumakuru City MLA, and N. Ravikumar, MLC, (all BJP) have termed the link canal "unscientific".

Mr. Gowda on Sunday said he too would be ready to sacrifice his life to stop the diversion of water to Ramanagara. He argued that the Congress-led government was attempting to divert Tumakuru district's share of water to the Ramanagara region.

Mr. Ravikumar asked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Mr. Shivakaumar, and district in-charge Minister G. Parameshwara to hold talks with elected representatives of the district to resolve the matter.

Work stopped

Following the protest on Saturday, the district administration temporarily halted the work.

Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Railways V. Somanna has written to Mr. Siddaramaiah opposing the project.

The BJP leaders claimed that Mr. Shivakumar, who also serves as the Water Resources Minister, is spearheading the project.

Meanwhile, H.C. Balakrishna, Magadi MLA (Congress), said that the people of Magadi have been patiently and rightfully claiming their share of water. Tumakuru district has been receiving water from other river sources.

"Will he (Mr. Gowda) not come to Bengaluru? We know what to do when they (Mr. Gowda and MLA for Turuvekere M.T. Krishnappa) come to Bengaluru," Mr. Balakrishna warned.

However, S.R. Srinivas, Gubbi MLA, of the Congress, said he too opposed the link canal project. "I too oppose the project and tried to meet Mr. Shivakumar on Saturday but could not meet him. I respect the people's sentiments," the MLA said.

'Revenue courts see big fall in overdue cases'

State's experiment has created a social impact by reducing litigation, harassment and expenses for farmers, says Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Karnataka has now become a model for the country in terms of handling revenue disputes as the State has drastically reduced the number of "overdue" cases, which have been pending beyond deadline, before the courts of tahsildars and Assistant Commissioners.

Social impact

This has resulted in a significant social impact through reduction in the burden of litigation, financial expenses, and harassment for farmers as over 95% of such disposed cases have attained legal finality without being taken before either higher revenue courts or civil courts.

The rules stipulate that disputes before the tahsildars' courts should be disposed of within three months, while the next higher authority of Assistant Commissioners' courts should dispose of such cases within a maximum of six months.

However, the number of overdue cases before these courts have been huge across the country.

About the cases

- Rules prescribe three months for tahsildars' courts and six months for Assistant Commissioners' courts to dispose of cases
- In 2023, Karnataka had 10,774 overdue cases before tahsildars' courts and 60,000 before the courts of Assistant Commissioners
- This has reduced to 400 in tahsildars' courts and 24,000 in the Assistant Commissioners' courts
- Over 95% of such disposed of cases have attained legal finality without being taken before higher revenue courts or civil courts

Drastic reduction

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda pointed out that Karnataka had 10,774 overdue cases before the courts of tahsildars and 60,000 before the courts of Assistant Commissioners when he took over the department in 2023.

"We have managed to reduce them to below 400 in tahsildars' courts and 24,000 in the Assistant Commissioners' courts," he said.

The Minister told *The Hindu* that it was possible owing to special focus given through regular and real-time monitoring as well as reviews regarding pendency.

RCCMS platform

All cases had been onboarded to the Revenue Court Case Monitoring System (RCCMS), which is a web application to track ongoing cases.

The Revenue Department has initiated action against those failing to onboard the pending cases to RCCMS and also those delaying the disposal of cases. Officials have been told to issue even orders regarding cases through RCCMs.

The reduction in the pendency of cases has resulted in a significant social impact as this has drastically reduced the number of cases appealed before higher revenue authorities or taken to courts, Mr. Gowda said, while pointing out that only 3% to 5% of the cases have gone for an appeal after being disposed by the tahsildars' courts. "Farmers can now focus on their work instead of repeatedly visiting the revenue offices," he observed.

According to him, the Union government has acknowledged Karnataka's achievement during various official meetings, while a few States have deputed their teams to Karnataka to learn from its experiment.

End-to-end integration:

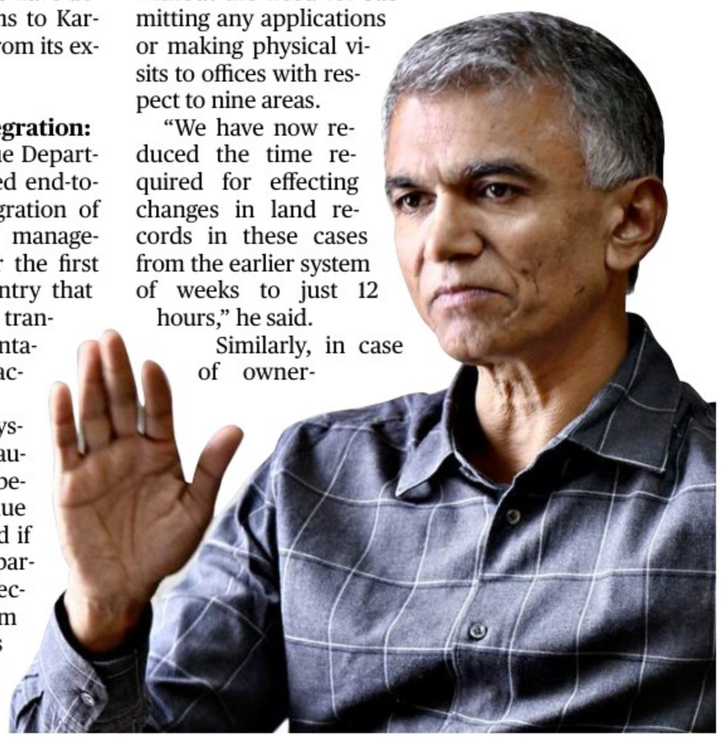
Also, the Revenue Department has ensured end-to-end digital integration of revenue court management system for the first time in the country that has brought in transparency, accountability, and swift action.

Under this system, the matter automatically goes before the revenue courts concerned if the aggrieved parties raise objections. This system enables parties concerned to view the status of the case online. The revenue courts will have to issue the orders in digital format that would be automatically effected in RTCs.

The department has introduced a system of "auto mutation" under which the changes in RTCs (other than ownership change) are effected automatically without the need for submitting any applications or making physical visits to offices with respect to nine areas.

"We have now reduced the time required for effecting changes in land records in these cases from the earlier system of weeks to just 12 hours," he said.

Similarly, in case of ownership change involving registered documents, there is a need for seven days' notice period while those with unregistered documents need a notice period of 15 days. In both cases, changes will be effected in two days after the notice period.



Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda interacting with *The Hindu* in Bengaluru. SUDHAKAKARA JAIN

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Vatal's trademark cap and glasses

The irrepressible Kannada protagonist Vatal Nagaraj's *(pictured)* trademark cap and dark glasses have often become subjects of public curiosity. The activist, who is known to stage a protest at the drop of a hat, is almost always seen publicly only in his hat and dark glasses. Mr. Nagaraj was also among the politicians in the State who took objection to the State government's decision to appoint actor Tamannaah Bhatia as the brand ambassador for the State-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents

Limited (KSDL), overlooking Kannadiga celebrities.

When veteran politician and MLC A.H. Vishwanath was told about Mr. Nagaraj's offer, albeit a light-hearted one, to become the brand ambassador for KSDL's Mysore Sandal soap without any remuneration, Mr. Vishwanath was quick to put a condition: Mr. Nagaraj should pose without his cap if he has to model for the brand.

'No-nonsense' IPS officers for coast

It appears that the State government has posted "no-nonsense" officers to Dakshina Kannada (DK) and Udupi districts after the recent communal incidents. Senior IPS officer Sudheer Kumar

Reddy *(pictured)*, who was posted as DK Superintendent of Police in June 2017 following law and order problem after the murder of an SDPI activist, is known to prevent communal conflicts and had taken swift action after the murder of RSS activist Sharath Madiwala in 2018. K. Arun, SP, has been shifted from Udupi to Mangaluru and under his leadership cases were booked against illegal extraction of sand and stone quarrying in Udupi. The new Udupi SP, Hariram Shankar, had earlier served as the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order), Mangaluru.

The people of the two districts have to wait to see what difference these three police officers will bring to policing in the two coastal districts. Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order) R. Hitendra has promised that "extraordinary steps" will be taken by the police to restore peace in the region.

Will the real Patil stand up?

Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal *(pictured)*, MLA,

who has been expelled from the BJP, and Vijugouda Patil, BJP leader and younger brother of Minister Shivanand Patil, got into a public spat recently about who is the "real Patil."

In fact, they went out of their way to dig out each other's family histories towards this end.

Mr. Yatnal, known for his vitriolic statements against leaders, including his own former party bosses, challenged Mr. Shivanand Patil to resign and face him in a byelection. The Sugar Minister accepted the challenge and submitted his resignation to the Speaker. But Mr. Yatnal did not resign. He called the Minister's resignation a "farce."

Mr. Yatnal continued to taunt Mr. Shivanand Patil's family. He said they were no "real Patils" and had adopted the name to gain respectability, making insinuating statements about the family profession of his ancestors. This angered Mr. Vijugouda Patil, who held an hour-long press conference, with copies of Mr. Yatnal's family tree, claiming that Mr. Yatna's original surname was not Patil but "Dharmakadali."

When questioned, Mr. Yatnal, said "Dharmakadli" was a title that his ancestors gained for letting the poor take away Bengal gram crop from his family farms free of cost. Now as Mr. Yatnal has continued to make statements about Mr. Shivanand Patil's family, Mr. Vijugouda Patil has warned Mr. Yatnal of "dire consequences" if he continued to shower insults.

Laiqh A. Khan
Raghava M.
Rishikesh Bahadur Desai

Rain: 71 lives lost in State since April 1

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 71 lives have been lost in Karnataka owing to rain so far since April 1. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Saturday that compensation of ₹5 lakh had been distributed to the families of the deceased.

During this period, there were 48 lightning strikes, nine tree-fall incidents, five cases of house collapse, four drownings, four people lost their lives in landslips, and there was one electrocution case.

Besides, there were losses of 702 animals, out of which compensation has already been distributed to the concerned in 698 cases.

As many as 2,068 houses were also damaged, out of which compensation had already been distributed to the owners of 1,926 houses. Around 75 houses were completely damaged and 1,993 were partially damaged owing to the excess rain during the pre-monsoon period.

"A total of 15,378.32 hectares of crops have been damaged. Around 11,915.66 hectares of agricultural crops and 3,462 hectares of horticultural crops was damaged," he said.

Khandre directs officials to conduct study on carrying capacity of Western Ghats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Eshwar Khandre has directed officials to conduct a study on the carrying capacity of the Western Ghats in Karnataka.

The Minister, in a note to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, has asked officials to conduct the study and submit a comprehensive report within three months.

In the wake of recurring landslips in parts of Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, and other areas during the pre-monsoon showers, the Minister has instructed them to conduct a study.

Eshwar Khandre

He said that experts have raised concerns that many roads and other infrastructure projects are being developed in the Western Ghats, which has put the region in danger, causing property and crop damage, loss of life and wildlife as well.

> The Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot, has 60% of the forests in Karnataka, which are home to a variety of flora, fauna and insect species
>
> **ESHWAR KHANDRE,** Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment

He said that many experts, scientists, and environmentalists have said that if the Western Ghats decline, there is a risk of severe water scarcity in the coming days. In this backdrop, he has instructed the member-secretary of the Biodiversity Board, the Evaluation, Planning, Research and Training, and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the Forest Conservation Department to conduct a study.

"The Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot, has 60% of the forests in Karnataka, which are home to a variety of flora, fauna and insect species," Mr. Khandre said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Obituary

P C BALAKRISHNA REDDY
[24/10/1952] - [08/05/2025]
Retired-Associate Professor
No. 61, Ganigarahalli, Chikkabanavara Post, Bangalore - 560090
Foundly remembered by:
Smt. Radha .S
Sri. Bhargav. B & Smt. Sahana .M
Smt. Bhavya .B & Sri. Manjunath .K
Sri. Bhuvanesh .B &
Smt. Hamsalekha .H
And Grandchildren's

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

11th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

S.JAYA
Born: 01.03.1944 Died: 02.06-2014
It is Eleven Years Since you left us, but you remain in our hearts forever
Fondly Remembered by
Husband, Daughters, Sons-in-Law, Grandchildren & Relatives
May your soul rest in peace and bestow happiness in our lives
A.Sivaramakrishnan
Mobile: 94449 75565

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, SRUJAN VIJAY ATHIKARY, S/o VIJAYA KUMAR SADASHIVA ATHIKARY, R/o 16, Siri, 9th Cross, Triveni Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore – 560022, state that in my 10th Marksheet, my name is recorded as SRUJAN V ATHIKARY, father's name as VIJAY KUMAR; and in my 12th Marksheet, as SRUJAN V ATHIKARY, father's name as VIJAYA KUMAR. The correct name is SRUJAN VIJAY ATHIKARY, father's name: VIJAYA KUMAR SADASHIVA ATHIKARY

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JAYA SUDHA NARENDRAN, W/o. Narendran M D, R/at No 2000 Ganga Street, Vijinapura, Bangalore 16 have changed my name from JAI SUDHA NARENDRAN, JAYA SUDHA to JAYA SUDHA NARENDRAN for all my future purposes by affidavit 30–05–2025 sworn before notary B.Seshagiri.

I, Aarti Chakravarthy D/O Madhusudhan Chakravarthy Residing at H No 143 Srinivasa Home Stay Co-Live Pg, 6th Cross Road, P and T Layout, Thanisandra, Vtc: Bangalore north, Po: Dr. Shivarama Karanth Nagar, District: Bengaluru, State: Karnataka-560077 Hereby Undertake that I Aarti Chakravarthy want to change my Name to Rann Dev Chakravarthy and gender as male for all future purposes

I, PRIYANKA Therambil Aravindakshan legally wedded spouse of Vinod Sanjeev, residing in Flat No. 19132, Wing 19, Phase-2, Sobha Dream Acres, Balagere Road, Bengaluru - 560 087 have changed my name from TA Priyanka to Priyanka Therambil Aravindakshan vide affidavit dated 30-05-2025 before A.R. Muneer Ahmed Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru

I, VINOD Sanjeev legal father of Siddarth Vinod, residing in Flat No. 19132, Wing 19, Phase-2, Sobha Dream Acres, Balagere Road, Bengaluru- 560 087 have changed my minor son's name whose date of birth is 04-03-2009 from V Siddarth to Siddarth Vinod vide affidavit dated 30-05-2025 before A.R. Muneer Ahmed Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ANTHONY SEQUEIRA** S/o S A Irudayanathan, age 64 years, R/at No. 85, 3rd Cross, St. Judes School and Church Sath Nagar, Maruthi Sevanagar, Bangalore-560 033 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **ANTHONY SEQUEIRA** and **CHANDRASHEKAR** are one and the same and refers to me only, also both the names of my father i.e. **S A IRUDAYANTHAN** and **DHARMAN** are one and the same and refers to my father only, vide affidavit dated 27-05-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **ONKARAPPA .N.R** at Bangalore.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

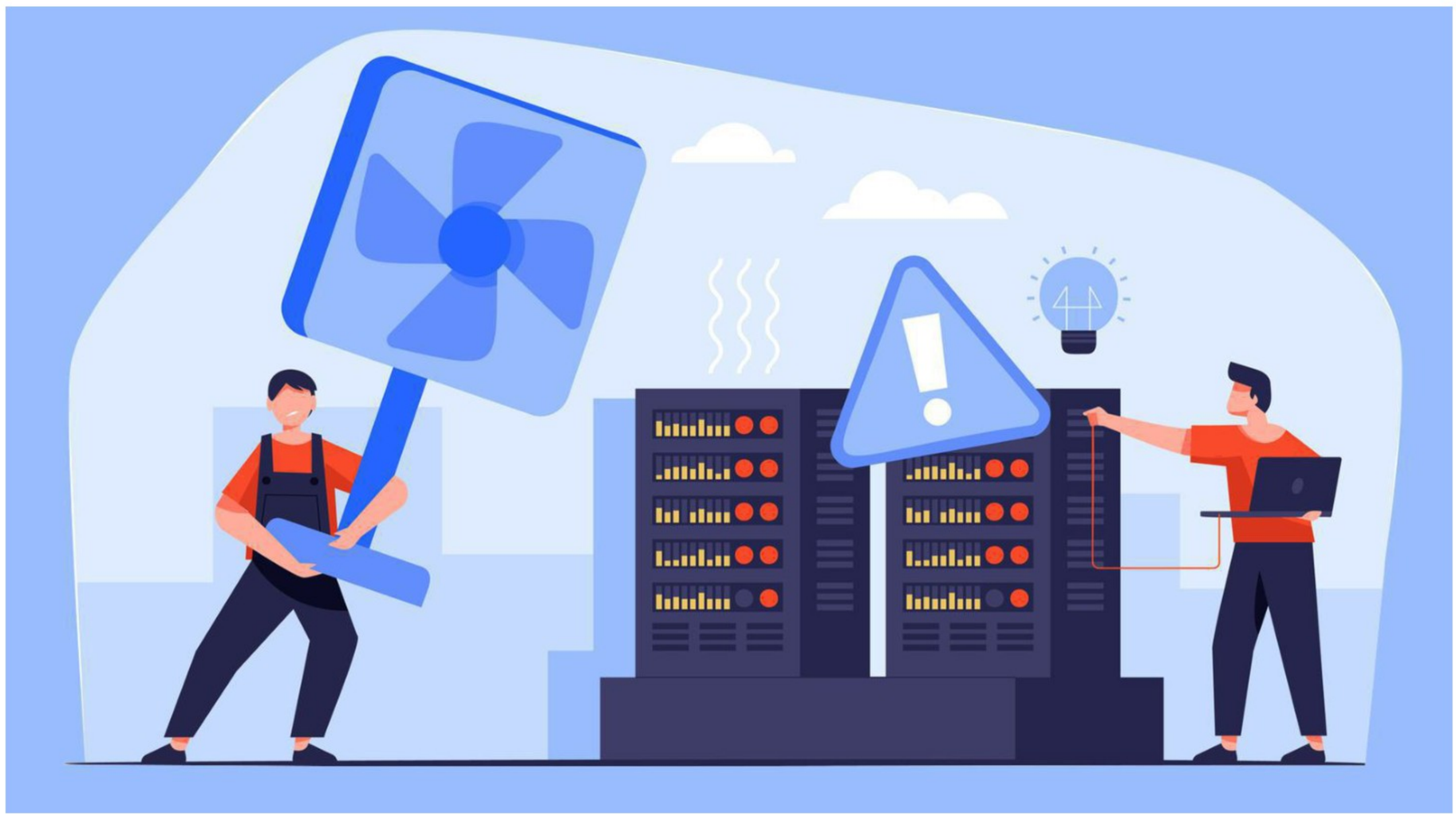
I, ANKIT Garg, Father of Aarav, R/O: Flat No TC–108, 1st Floor, Trendsquares Ortus 3, Amruthahalli, Sahakaranagar, Bengaluru–560092, Have changed my Son name as Aarav Garg, Affidavit dated on 21/05/25.

I, PRIYANKA Agarwal, d/o: Ashok Kumar Agrawal, r/o: Flat No TC–108, 1st Floor, Trendsquares Ortus 3, Amruthahalli, Sahakaranagar, Bengaluru–560092. Have changed my Name to Priyanka Ashokkumar Agrawal. Affidavit date on 21/05/25

LOST & FOUND

IT IS Notified for the information that my original qualifying examination certificate of main Secondary Examination (Class X) of the year April 2016 and Roll No. 20160392812 issued by State Syllabus and Diploma Marks Cards and Degree Certificate from the year June 2016 - Aug 2020 and Register No. 6011039 issued by Govt. Tool Room and Training Center (GT&TC) has actually been lost. Sharan Kumar K, S/o Krishna N, # 1502, 3rd Floor, 29 th Main Road, 'D' Group Layout, Srigandadakavalu, Bangalore - 560091. Mob: 8147268032.

CACHE



ISTOCKPHOTO

How the technology industry is trying to meet its climate goals

Electronics heat up very quickly. If the chips get too hot, they may malfunction or altogether fail. Cooling keeps them running smoothly and ensures a longer lifespan. However, in data centres, cooling consumes nearly as much power as computing

T.V.Venkateswaran

A team of researchers from Microsoft and WSP Global has published a groundbreaking study in *Nature* demonstrating that advanced cooling methods like cold plates and immersion cooling can cut data centre emissions by 15-21%, energy use by 15-20%, and water consumption by 31-52% compared to traditional air cooling.

The life cycle assessment, led by Husam Alissa of Microsoft, Mukunth Natarajan, and Praneet Arshi of WSP, among others, also provided actionable insights to help the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry meet its climate goals. "Our [life cycle assessment] has shown that reducing data centre energy use through advanced liquid-cooling technologies will lead to marked reductions in data centre environmental impacts," the authors wrote in their paper.

Electronics versus rising temperatures

Electronics heat up like crowded kitchens: billions of microscopic switches (transistors) are like cooks working nonstop, bumping into each other while flipping electrical dosas (data). The tighter they are packed – that is smaller the chips are – or the more tasks they handle, the more they collide and create heat, just like a packed kitchen gets hotter, needing fans and ACs to cool down. A laptop is like a kitchen with one burner: a simple fan suffices. A data centre is like a thousand laptops working at full speed in a single room, generating heat like a massive bonfire compared to a single candle. Without cooling, the intense heat will melt the hardware in minutes.

Heat slows down electrons, like runners in thick mud. If the chips get too hot, they may malfunction or altogether fail. Cooling keeps them running smoothly, ensures a longer lifespan and fast and reliable performance, and prevents heat damage. Just like an athlete needs water to stay sharp in a race, electronics need efficient heat removal.

Race to cut emissions

In data centres, cooling consumes nearly as much power as computing, like an AC fighting oven heat in a busy kitchen. To curb climate change, the ICT industry needs to cut emissions by 42% by 2030 (from its 2015 levels). Data centres need greener designs that use less energy and water, and have lower greenhouse gas emissions to help meet global climate goals and keep warming below 1.5°C. Urgent upgrades to energy, efficiency, and cooling are critical.

Chips are also getting smaller, faster, and more energy-efficient, like upgrading your phone every year without draining the battery faster. As the demand for cloud services increases, so must data centre capacities and heat mitigation strategies.

Ice packs and oil baths

Two prominent cooling techniques have emerged as viable alternatives. Cold plates, also known as direct-to-chip cooling, are small heat exchange modules equipped with microchannels to enhance heat transfer. Think of a cold plate like an ice pack strapped to a feverish forehead, but for computer chips. It sits directly on hot components, with small coolant-filled channels absorbing heat into tiny channels filled with coolant.

When it becomes warmer, the coolant – such as 25% polyethylene glycol and 75% water – flows away and dumps the heat outside, while fresh coolant entering the veins keep the cycle going. This method is more efficient than fans the same way swapping a handheld fan for an ice-cold bath is better. In a cold-plate system, the liquid-to-air heat transfer ratio ranges from 50% to 80%, sometimes more.

The second technique, immersion cooling, is like dunking a hot frying pan into a pool of heat-hungry oil instead of blowing air on it. The oil, which is good at dissipating heat within itself, soaks up 100% of the pan's heat and keeps it from overheating. In the one-phase cooling method, like swirling cold water around the pan, the oil stays liquid but carries heat away. In two-phase cooling, the technique works the way water cools in a mud pot: the coolant fluid bubbles into vapour at a low temperature, rises into a cooling coil, condenses, drips back down, and repeats. "These techs cut corrosion, boost reliability, and slash carbon footprint – all while running silent without fans," the researchers wrote.

Pioneers like Microsoft and Alibaba are already deploying these systems at scale.

Green or just less dirty?

To truly lower the carbon footprint of cooling technologies, scientists, policymakers, and lawmakers need to weigh its full impact. While the new solutions are innovative, they face hurdles. Coolant fluids involve different regulations, and complex designs delay deployment. Using them is like swapping plastic straws for paper: they are greener, but not without trade-offs. The world could end up trading one ecological problem for a different, even worse, one.

If the electricity for an electric car comes from a coal power plant, the car's carbon footprint is still high. Similarly, cooling gains can backfire if pollution is merely shifted elsewhere.

The study team's cradle-to-grave life cycle assessment evaluated air-cooled, cold-plate, and immersion cooling across emissions, energy, and water use, proving that sustainability demands systemic thinking, not isolated fixes.

Twin engines of a green data centre

The assessment revealed that with grid electricity, cold plates and immersion cooling cut greenhouse gas emissions by more than 15%, energy use by more than 15%, and water consumption by more than 31% – making them superior to conventional cooling technologies in use today. With 100% renewable energy, the team found the cuts could jump to 13% for emissions, 15% for energy, and 50% for water.

"Switching to renewables slashes emissions by 85-90%, energy use by 6-7%, and water demand by 55-85%, regardless of cooling tech," the researchers wrote.

Thus, life cycle assessments can reveal sustainability trade-offs either within the same cooling technology or when comparing different technologies. Ultimately, the calculus is clear: ICT's climate future hinges on tackling how the industry cools its data centres.

T.V. Venkateswaran is a science communicator and visiting faculty member at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on movies which are centred around health subjects. If you are a movie buff and health buff, see how comfortable you are with the following questions

Ramya Kannan

QUESTION 1

The highly successful and entertaining movie *Patch Adams* starring Robin Williams in the eponymous character, which had its own Indian versions in *Munnabhai MBBS* and *Vasoolraja MBBS*, was based on a true story. The real Patch Adams is believed to be the architect of a certain kind of therapy that is now popular in hospital wards across the globe. What is it?

QUESTION 2

In the *Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, Brad Pitt essays the role of a man ageing in reverse. What is the actual health condition cinematically portrayed in *Benjamin Button*?

QUESTION 3

30 years ago, this movie starring Dustin Hoffman outlined the damage a particular fast-spreading, fictional virus was wreaking, portraying emergency health and containment scenarios we are now familiar with, post pandemic. That virus was said to manifest as hemorrhagic fever, causing organs to liquefy and blood to stream from sores. What was the name of this fictional virus in the 1995 movie?

QUESTION 4

In *Hichki*, the main character played by Rani Mukerjee suffers from a condition that causes uncontrollable tics and sounds, a huge barrier to her getting a job. What is the condition called?

QUESTION 5

Retrograde amnesia is the inability to recall memories from before a traumatic event or injury, and the opposite is a condition whereby the ability to form new memories after the event is affected. This is depicted in a Christopher Nolan-inspired flick, made in two Indian languages – Tamil and Hindi. What is the condition and what are the titles of the movies?

Visual question:
In another movie starring Robin Williams, a psychiatrist finds himself in a ward full of inexplicably catatonic patients. The image above is from an OTT series which features the same medical condition. What was the epidemic called and what is the Netflix series on the same?

Questions and Answers to the May 30 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The State where the south-west monsoon arrives first. **Ans: Kerala**
2. This region has the highest average rainfall. **Ans: Mawsynram**
3. This mobile app, created to provide crop advisories to farmers based on weather information, is named after an epic poem. **Ans: Meghdoot**
4. If 10 cm of rainfall is received over a small area at a station in one hour, this phenomenon is called __. **Ans: Cloud burst**
5. This flow of air attains maximum strength in July and gives rise to a strong monsoon in peninsular India. **Ans: Somali jet**
6. X was established in 1875 in Calcutta. **Ans: India Meteorological Department**
Visual: Name this astronomer. **Ans: Edmond Halley**
Early Birds: Dodo Jayaditya| Ahad Chachiya| Atul Kumar Shukla| Atul Kumar| Erfanally Oosmany

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

His debut film was a horror-thriller

He put his thumb on the scale and told the men that he won't get arrested even if they complain

S. Upendran

What is the difference between a 'widow' and 'spinster'? (S. Sumalatha, Erode)
The word 'widow' is normally used to refer to a woman whose husband is no more; she was married, but has lost her partner. A widow may be a young woman or she may be old. According to some scholars, the word is related to our Sanskrit 'vidhwa'. A man who has lost his wife, is called 'widower'.

The young widow worked hard to keep her company running.

The word 'spinster', as you can probably guess, comes from the word 'spin'. In the past, the term was used to refer to a woman who earned her living by spinning yarn and thread. Since most people in this occupation were single and either middle aged or old, with the passage of time, the word acquired the meaning, an unmarried woman who is beyond her prime. Today, it is considered offensive to call a woman 'spinster'.

What is the correct pronunciation of the word 'debut'? (R. Parthasarathy)
The word 'debut' consists of two syllables. The first is pronounced like the word 'day', and the second rhymes with the words 'few', 'view' and 'new'. The British pronounce the word 'DAY-byuu' with the stress on the first syllable. Americans, on the other hand, put the stress on the second syllable – day-BYUU. The word can be used as a noun and a verb, and in everyday conversation, it is used nowadays to mean to make one's 'first appearance in public or society'.

The son of the famous rock star will be making his debut at next month's concert.

What is the meaning of 'put a thumb on the scale'? (John Varghese, Kochi)
When you put your thumb on the scale, what you are trying to do is influence the outcome of an event. For example, during election time, there are many things that politicians and political parties do to win. One of the tricks they resort to is to try and bribe the voter in different ways – they buy the potential votes either by giving people money or by giving them some sort of freebie: TV, stove, mixie, gas connection, etc. By giving them these things, the candidate is attempting to unfairly influence the electorate; he is bribing them into voting for him. He is deliberately cheating or using underhand means to win.

My boss always put his thumb on the scale when it came to hiring new people. Nobody else had a say in the matter.

The 'scale' in the expression refers to the balance that butchers and fruit vendors used in the past to weigh their produce. When they wished to cheat their customer, the vendors secretly placed their thumb on the scale – this created the illusion that the produce weighed a lot more than it actually did!

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Homing:
orienting or directing homeward or to a destination

Usage: *The plane was brought down by a homing missile.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/homingpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈhəʊmɪŋ/

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EDUCATIONPLUS

Of disciplines and their derivatives

With by-products of academic disciplines proliferating, the focus on true knowledge, critical thinking, and scientific temperament needs to be reinforced

Anil Kshirsagar

Academia has been always been a fraught landscape, where diverse streams of knowledge vie for recognition, and legitimacy. Recently, this terrain has become increasingly complex, as the boundaries between disciplines and their proliferating derivatives get alarmingly blurred. The commodification of knowledge under late capitalism has led to a surge in what can be termed "discipline derivatives" or fields of study that emerge from core disciplines and function largely as applied or market-driven offshoots. While these derivatives present themselves as new and innovative disciplines, they often lack the theoretical rigour, critical inquiry, and epistemic depth of their parent fields. The result is growing academic confusion, where the line between knowledge and skill, education and training, inquiry and utility becomes dangerously thin.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Branching off

Take the interesting case of Psychology and its branches as an example. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Applied Behaviour Analysis, Forensic, Educational, Social, Health, Sports, and Clinical Psychology are all pro-structural endeavours, functioning in the interest of the current mode of production.

Among the given derivatives, the ones circling around psycho-therapy attract more attention. By using the disciplinary secrets, psychotherapy smartly corrects the strange behaviours of people and puts them back on their previous normal track; in a way, it refits them in the tyre they were part of.

The reasons for the psychological anomaly are immaterial to it. Family, school, society, marriage, and the rest are invariably straight-lined in its clinic. For the practitioners of the derivative, the individual is at fault not the institution. So the treatment is to be administered to the individual not the latter. The concerned practitioners are professionals, leaving aside their professional growth they would never stand against tough systems like Culture and Society.

Similarly, psephology is a by-product of Politics, language training of Language, financial management of Economics, industrial chemistry, forensic chemistry, and polymer chemistry of Chemistry, sports Medicine and aviation medicine of Pharmacy, digital marketing of Commerce, data science of Computer Science, and actuarial science of Statistics. All these derivatives depend completely upon their relative parent branches.

Proliferation of courses

The central argument is disciplines and their derivatives are different. By referring to them as specialties, we fail to capture their true nature. Discipline Derivatives is a more accurate term, as they thrive and generate capital by riding on the back of the Organising Structures or Disciplines. If the Organising Structures help create the congenial universe for the on-going mode of production, validating the epistemic universe of their time, discipline derivatives establish themselves as sites of capital-cum-social action, where individuals engage, interact, and shell out money. The moment this happens, a general consent to the entire game is secured.

The proliferation of these by-products in academia has led to universities and colleges worldwide offering courses on these trendy fields and attracting numerous admissions. This has led to a kind of academic confusion. For instance, Data Science, which is a dangerously pro-structural project, is now being offered as a major subject worldwide. Students and their parents pursue these courses, enticed by the promise of lucrative careers. However, the focus on true knowledge, critical thinking, and scientific temperament is often lacking.

In past, disciplines in academia had to work hard to be recognised as scientific. Today, these new fields are readily labelled as sciences without rigorous scrutiny. Under such conditions George Orwell's quote from his 1945 essay "What is Science?" seems highly relevant: "Scientific education ought to mean the implanting of a rational, sceptical, and experimental habit of mind. It ought to mean acquiring a method – a method that can be used on any problem that one meets – and not simply piling up a lot of facts". True education should be based on this foundation; otherwise, individuals risk being swept away by the transient trends they are following.

It's crucial for intellectuals, academicians, and the informed public to recognise this reality. By doing so, they can explore alternative models of social organisation. Remaining vigilant and open-minded will eventually lead to the emergence of new ways of living.

Views are personal

The writer is an Assistant Professor of English, M. J. College, Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

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Beyond the numbers

Why the insistence on a 15:1 student-teacher ratio could be counterproductive

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Padmakumar Nair

The Indian higher education sector is at a critical juncture. As universities and colleges strive for better national and global rankings, the focus on metrics such as faculty strength, research output, and student-teacher ratio has intensified. One that has drawn attention is the insistence on a 15:1 student-teacher ratio as a benchmark for quality. While this may appear to be a well-intentioned move aimed at improving education standards, it is, in fact, a counterproductive policy that could erode the quality of both teaching and research in Indian institutions.

India does not produce enough Ph.D. graduates who meet global research and teaching standards. The number of Ph.D. holders graduating each year is limited and only a fraction possesses the research rigour, teaching aptitude, and academic depth necessary to contribute meaningfully to higher education. According to the *All-India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE)* 2022, less than 40,000 PhDs are awarded annually but the quality of these degrees varies widely due to disparities in faculty expertise, funding availability, and research infrastructure across institutions. Many are produced by institutions where research culture is weak, leading to degrees that may not necessarily indicate deep academic expertise. If universities are compelled to maintain a 15:1 student-teacher ratio without a sufficient pool of well-trained Ph.D. holders, they may end up hiring suboptimal candidates, many of whom might lack strong research capabilities or effective teaching skills. Globally, top universities do not adhere rigidly to a 15:1 student-teacher ratio. Many leading institutions in the U.S. and Europe operate effectively with ratios between 25:1 and 30:1, depending on the field of study.

A smaller class size does not automatically translate to better learning outcomes. For instance, student engagement in many Science and Engineering disciplines depends not just on faculty headcount but on infrastructure, lab access, mentorship quality, and research opportunities. A well-structured programme with 30 students per teacher can be equally effective, provided faculty members are well-qualified, and teaching methods are interactive. The pedagogical approach, faculty training, and institutional support make a difference.

Institutions scrambling to meet the 15:1 ratio without an adequate supply of high-quality PhDs will inevitably lower their hiring standards. Candidates with questionable academic backgrounds from less known or non-research-intensive institutions will get hired. Faculty members with weak research profiles and limited classroom experience will be given teaching responsibilities. Universities will focus on quantity over quality, leading to the dilution of academic standards. In the long run, this will only degrade India's higher education ecosystem rather than improve it.

Moreover, an influx of low-quality PhDs will directly impact students. Faculty members who are unprepared, uninspiring, and underqualified will struggle to engage students in meaningful learning. Weak conceptual clarity among teachers will lead to poor classroom delivery. Superficial research guidance will hinder innovation and original thinking among students. Just as poor faculty recruitment affects teaching, it also harms research quality. A faculty member with a poor research record is unlikely to contribute meaningfully to India's research ecosystem.

Shift in focus

Instead of artificially forcing universities to recruit more faculty India's higher education policy should focus on:

Encouraging rigorous Ph.D. programmes: Emphasise original research, teacher training, and publication ethics rather than simply increasing the number of degree holders.

Faculty development: Invest in training faculty members in effective pedagogy, student engagement, and research skills.

Increasing research funding: The government must increase research grants, provide better stipends for Ph.D. students, and ensure that universities have the financial capacity to attract top talent.

Flexible student-teacher ratio: Allow institutions to maintain a 25:1 or 30:1 ratio based on the field of study, research focus, and student needs.

In conclusion, the insistence on a 15:1 student-teacher ratio will not improve education quality. Instead, it will lower the standard of teaching and research in India. Our focus should not be on hiring more faculty members just to meet an arbitrary metric but on ensuring that faculty members – regardless of their number – are truly qualified, passionate, and effective educators and researchers.

Views are personal

The writer is the Director of Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology and Dean of LM Thapar School of Management and Thapar School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

Carve your path

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

I finished B.Sc. Chemistry and am preparing for the UPSC. But I would like to be a pilot. How can I achieve this goal? Unnikrishnan

Dear Unnikrishnan,

Transitioning from B.Sc. Chemistry to being a pilot is achievable but requires a different set of qualifications and training. Balancing the UPSC preparation with flight training will be challenging. You need to create a structured study plan and manage time effectively. What about taking the UPSC CDS instead of UPSC CSE with the goal of joining the IAF as a pilot? The standard route for aspiring commercial pilots is to get the Commercial Pilot License (CPL) and certification from a DGCA-approved flying school in India. You also need to pass a Class I medical and written examination conducted by the DGCA to obtain a Student Pilot License (SPL) before starting flight training. Visit the DGCA website for detailed information on licensing requirements and speak with experienced pilots to gain insights.

Is a Master's in Journalism and Mass Communication a good choice for an English Language and Literature graduate? Anjana

Dear Anjana,

It can be an excellent choice because of the synergy of skills. English Literature provides a strong theoretical foundation in writing, analysis, and critical thinking. A deep understanding of language is essential for literary analysis, crafting compelling narratives, effective communication, reporting, storytelling, and so on. The study of literature also cultivates analytical and critical thinking skills. Career opportunities include print, broadcast, and digital media, content writing and editing, public relations, corporate communications, social media management, advertising and marketing, digital marketing and online content creation.

I am doing M.Sc. Computer Science (AI and ML), and am interested in Machine Learning. Are there any opportunities in the government sector or any exams I should take to get a good job? Anaswara

Dear Anaswara,

While the private sector currently dominates AI/ML jobs, government opportunities are emerging, and certain exams can help you access them. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) utilises AI/ML for various defence applications. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) uses AI/ML for satellite data analysis, image processing, and mission planning. Opportunities exist in areas like remote sensing and data analytics. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) is involved in developing and implementing IT solutions for various government departments. AI/ML skills are increasingly relevant for data analysis, automation, and citizen services. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is involved in research and development in advanced computing technologies, including AI/ML. Opportunities exist for research scientists and engineers. All these organisations have their own recruitment processes and exams.

Many government research labs and institutes are involved in AI/ML research, particularly in areas like healthcare, agriculture, and environmental science. Government Data Analytics Roles have a growing demand for data analysts and data scientists with AI/ML expertise.

Exams to consider are the GATE, NIC Scientist 'B' exam, CSIR exams, the UPSC and State Public Service Commission Exam.

I am in the first year of a Master's in Public Administration and Policy Studies. I want to start my own business but need financial support until I can do so. How should I go about this? Gowtham

Dear Gowtham,

Balancing academic pursuits with entrepreneurial aspirations requires careful planning. Leverage your academic skills and consider part-time jobs related to your field of study. Consider being a research assistant at your university, interning or explore part-time roles at local government offices or non-profit organisations, freelancing and writing or doing research for policy-related projects, grant writing for non-profits, consulting for small businesses or organisations who need policy guidance, online tutoring or teaching.

Explore options like scholarships or grants for graduate students, especially those with entrepreneurial ambitions. Some organisations support students pursuing social entrepreneurship or businesses aligned with public policy goals. Explore student loan options, but study the long-term repayment implications. Start researching small business loan and grant programmes. Study government programmes supporting small businesses. If your business idea has a strong social impact component, consider crowdfunding to raise initial capital.

Network with professionals in your field and identify potential mentors. Work on a business plan and utilise university resources using market research, financial projections, taking courses on business creation and small business management. Does your university offer resources for aspiring entrepreneurs, such as business incubators, entrepreneurship workshops, and mentorship programmes?

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

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Four-cornered poll race in Nilambur

While the ruling LDF in Kerala has fielded M. Swaraj and the Opposition UDF has picked Aryadan Shoukath, P.V. Anvar, whose resignation necessitated the byelection, too has declared his candidature; the BJP has joined the fray belatedly

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The byelection to the Nilambur Assembly constituency in Kerala's Malappuram district, with barely seven months remaining in the incumbent Left Democratic Front (LDF) government's term, evolved into a high-profile four-cornered electoral battle on Sunday.

Political theatre, last-minute switching of sides, and the entry of unexpected candidates marked the hectic day, with the Election Commission's last date for filing nominations expiring on Monday.

The LDF and the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) had put their cards on the table by fielding Communist Party of India (Marxist) State Committee member M. Swaraj and Congress leader Aryadan Shoukath as their candidates, respectively.

Poll talk: LDF candidate M. Swaraj addressing a reception after arriving at Nilambur on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Independent MLA from Nilambur and the present All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) State convener, P.V. Anvar, whose acrimonious parting of ways with the ruling front precipitated the byelection, has declared his candidature in the bypoll. Mr. Anvar had attempted to tag the Trinamool with the Congress-led Opposition UDF since joining West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party in January.

Aspiring for a berth in the Opposition UDF, Mr. Anvar had initially ruled out contesting the bypoll. He became a fixture at UDF rallies, playing the role of an LDF insider-turned-whistleblower against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. However, his relationship with the UDF soured after he aired scepticism about Mr. Shaukath's winnability. Mr. Anvar singled out the Leader of the Opposition, V.D. Satheesan, for not billeting him in the UDF. The UDF denied speculation that Mr. Anvar's candidature had injected a measure of variability into the electoral calculus of the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) in Nilambur.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which initially viewed the bypoll as insignificant, has belatedly changed tack and fielded Mohan George, a Kerala Congress leader aligned with the UDF, as its candidate in Nilambur.

Five arrested for gang rape of minor in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Police officers in Karnataka have arrested five persons, including two minors, on the charge of being part of a gang that repeatedly raped a minor and filmed the offence.

Abducted

The offence was committed in a village near Belagavi a few months ago.

The 15-year-old girl was abducted, taken to a stone crusher and raped by six people.

The accused filmed the incident on their mobile phones.

The police said the accused used the video to blackmail the girl and raped her repeatedly.

The victim's parents approached the police two days ago, after she complained.

Team formed

A team has been formed to track and apprehend the sixth accused, who is on the run.

Investigations are on, the police said.

Police Commissioner Borase Bhushan Gulbarao told presspersons, who met him in Belagavi on Sunday, that the accused used the videos to blackmail the girl and also submit her to repeated rape at different places at different times. A case has been registered under The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Karnataka BJP leader booked as threat video goes viral

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Following a complaint by Syed Aleem Ilahi, Kalaburagi Police have booked BJP leader from Chittapur Manikanta Rathod for threatening Muslim community in a video that went viral on Saturday.

In his complaint, Mr. Aleem Illahi has said that Mr. Rathod called for uprooting Muslim community and kill the perpetrators of Love Jihad within eight days instigating enmity between communities of different faiths. Based on the complaint and the video that went viral, a case was registered against Mr. Rathod at the CEN Crime Police Station in Kalaburagi under Sections 196 (promoting enmity between different groups), 197 (imputations or assertions prejudicial to national integration), 299 (outraging the religious feelings), 253 (statements conducing to public mischief) and 351 (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.

Manikanta Rathod

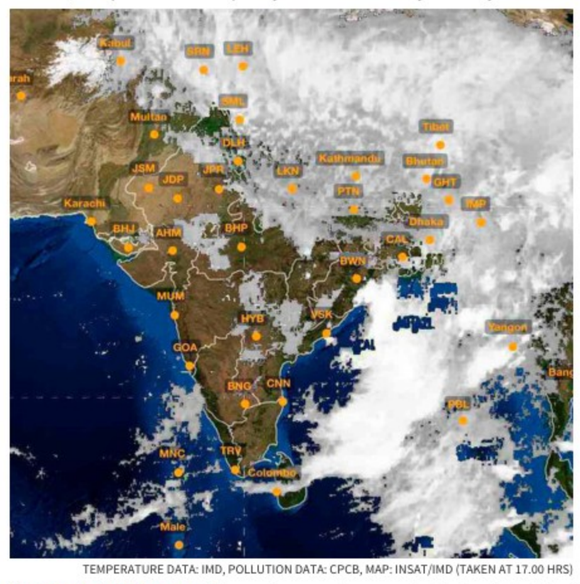
In the video clip, Mr. Rathod is seen speaking in his Lambani language mentioning a recent rape of a Lambani girl allegedly by Muslim youths and calling upon his community members to settling scores with Muslims. In the video, Mr. Rathod is seen threatening mass violence against Muslims, stating that if the police are held off for just 15 minutes, all Muslims in Kalaburagi can be massacred. He also claims that jihadis must be eliminated within eight days and went so far as to say that the Muslim community should be "uprooted".

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Police Commissioner S.D. Sharanappa confirmed the registration of a First Information Report against Mr. Rathod. "The FIR has been registered and investigation is on. At present, [the] accused is not in Kalaburagi district. We will take action as per law," the officer said.

This is not Mr. Rathod's first brush with controversy. Several cases have already booked against him in various police stations in Kalaburagi and Yadgir districts on various charges, including smuggling of PDS rice meant for beneficiaries of Anna Bhagya Scheme and threatening to murder Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and his family.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalayam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Heavy rain likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mahe, Sub Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim and Uttarakhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	107	28.5	25.6	Kozhikode	8	34.5	25.5
Ahmedabad	—	38.3	28.0	Kurnool	—	36.3	27.1
Aizawl	85	25.1	22.1	Lucknow	—	39.7	28.0
Allahabad	5	40.6	24.5	Madurai	—	40.7	25.0
Bengaluru	—	30.6	21.3	Mangaluru	16	31.4	25.0
Bhopal	—	37.4	25.8	Mumbai	6	32.2	26.4
Bhubaneswar	—	38.0	25.0	Mysuru	—	29.0	20.0
Chandigarh	12	40.2	22.4	New Delhi	0.8	37.5	25.2
Chennai	—	36.7	28.6	Patna	1.6	40.6	30.0
Coimbatore	—	33.3	23.6	Port Blair	5	30.4	26.4
Dehradun	0.2	37.2	20.8	Puducherry	—	36.8	27.1
Gangtok	0.5	23.0	18.1	Pune	—	30.1	24.6
Goa	3	32.5	27.0	Raipur	—	37.2	25.9
Guwahati	13	31.4	23.5	Ranchi	—	34.4	25.3
Hubballi	—	32.0	23.0	Shillong	1.2	23.5	18.0
Hyderabad	25.2	34.8	25.2	Shimla	2.6	29.4	15.0
Imphal	20.6	23.4	21.2	Srinagar	11	19.5	11.6
Jaipur	—	40.0	29.7	Thiruvananthapuram	5	31.9	24.2
Kochi	12	31.2	24.0	Tiruchi	—	38.3	27.0
Kohima	17	24.8	18.6	Vijayawada	—	38.5	27.2
Kolkata	3	36.5	27.5	Visakhapatnam	—	36.0	29.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.19	..80	14	... 241	...121	
Bengaluru	...4	6	27	 42	...144	
Chennai	.15	..17	46	 43	38	
Delhi	.31	..82	47	 95	...241	
Hyderabad	.11	..15	34	... 137	95	
Kolkata	.10	..27	28	 42	45	
Lucknow	...8	..45	29	... 183	...176	
Mumbai	..—	1	40	 84	...107	
Pune	..—	..55	76	 40	92	
Visakhapatnam	.13	..95	36	 98	...155	

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bikaner, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 276 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizwal, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 6

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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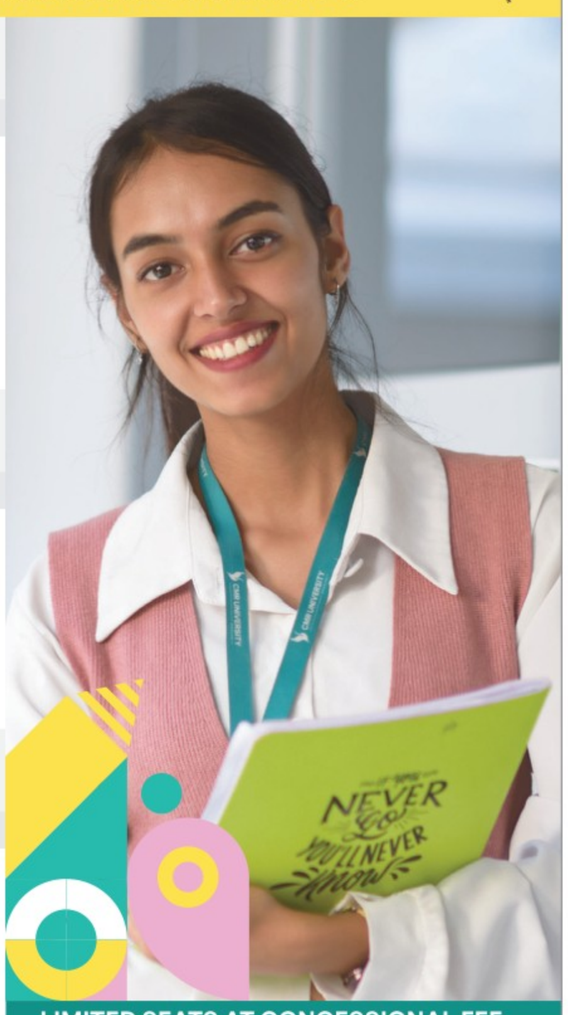

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Growing pains

India needs to grow faster to transition as a developed economy

The data on India's economic performance in 2024-25, released on Friday, have something for everybody. Those with an optimistic outlook can rejoice at the seemingly robust growth in the fourth quarter. Pessimists can despair over the four-year low annual growth figure. The realist's assessment, however, is that there is cause for some restrained celebration, and more than a healthy dose of disappointment. The Q4 growth of 7.4% was considerably higher than what was expected for the quarter, and the fastest seen in an otherwise dismal financial year. The main drivers were the construction sector returning to double-digit growth, and the agriculture sector posting a strong showing. These are also two major employment drivers. Services, too, continued their steady and strong growth. The manufacturing sector, on the other hand, grew at just 4.8%, down from 11.3% in Q4 of the previous year. There is a reality check hiding in the aggregate numbers, as well. The GDP growth rate of 7.4% was achieved in large part due to a 12.7% growth in net taxes. This bump in tax collections provided a statistical boost without which growth in actual economic activity would have come in at around 6.8%. The much-hyped 'Maha Kumbh effect' on consumption expenditure also does not seem to have materialised. Growth in Private Final Consumption Expenditure in Q4 – the Kumbh quarter – came in at 6%, the slowest in five quarters. Capital formation, however, grew a robust 9.4% as the government finally sped up its sluggish capital investments.

Government officials and Union Ministers have expressed their satisfaction at the 6.5% growth in 2024-25, the slowest since the pandemic, saying it is still the fastest among major economies, and not bad in the context of a "growth-scarce" global environment. All of this is true. Yet, 'not bad' is not nearly good enough for India. The race is not with the rest of the world, but is an effort to keep pace with the country's growing requirements. The Modi government, with its sights set on a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, must be held to a higher standard in line with its aspirations. If, as the Economic Survey points out, Viksit Bharat by 2047 requires "sustained economic growth of close to 8% every year for at least a decade", then India is decidedly moving very slowly, even if in the right direction. In his press conference, Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran said India was entering a phase of low inflation and stable growth. Stability can be good, since it implies lower chances of growth slowing. Yet, it also implies growth is unlikely to accelerate significantly either. The government needs to consider whether this is truly a satisfactory situation for a transitioning economy.

Wrong call

Assam government's decision to arm civilians goes against law enforcement

The decision by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Assam government to issue arms licences to "eligible" indigenous communities in remote and vulnerable areas in the State is fraught with danger. The State government seems to suggest that indigenous communities living in the border areas abutting Bangladesh are vulnerable and that armed licences would be a deterrent and improve their personal safety and confidence. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has also insisted that these grants would not be for people near inter-State borders in Assam. But these caveats still do not take away from the fact that arming specific civilian groups is liable to be rampantly misused for acts such as vigilantism and inter-community rivalry, as the lines between law enforcement – which carries legal authority and has a monopoly over armed instruments – and private citizens are blurred. In a State that has been beset with insurgent violence and where the threat from groups such as the ULFA (Independent) remains, introducing more arms into civilian hands risks propagating further violence and arms proliferation rather than ensuring enhanced security. Instead of arming civilians, ostensibly for self-defence – a move akin to abdicating its core responsibility – the State government has the clear alternative of enhancing its own law enforcement and security presence in these "vulnerable areas".

It is well understood that in modern states, the monopoly over instruments of violence will remain with the government and its law enforcement agencies. In India, arms licences are issued in a restricted manner as a delegated and a limited right to self-preservation to select individuals through a stringent licensing process under the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 2016. These rules under the law preclude the provision of such licences to larger, identified groups – where identification itself could be fraught with the risk of conflicts – as they not only present administrative challenges but also make it difficult for the government to license, monitor and recover firearms as the law requires it to. Arming civilian groups, even with an intention to do so with some stringent implementation, runs the risks of having these weapons entering grey markets and falling into the wrong hands, besides designating those groups with an authority that could backfire on the state. This was evident when security forces in Chhattisgarh arming civilian groups for protection against the Maoist threat – in the Salwa Judum campaign in the late 2000s – led to severe human rights violations and lawlessness, before the Supreme Court of India intervened to deem the policy to be illegal. Considering these problems, Assam must reverse its decision.

The university under attack, universities undermined

Arun Kumar

is a retired Professor of Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), a former President of the JNU Teachers Association (JNUTA) and Founding President of the Coordination Committee of Teachers' Associations of Delhi (CCTAD). He is also the author of 'Indian Economy since Independence: Persisting Colonial Disruption' (2023)

Universities are facing an unprecedented challenge. While in India the challenge has been growing over the last three decades, in the United States, it has erupted since President Donald Trump took office in January 2025. The challenge has been growing elsewhere too as society's expectations from universities are changing.

The Trump administration is freezing $3.2 billion of Harvard University's grants and contracts. There is a move to revoke Harvard's tax-exempt status which will cost it a few hundred million dollars. Harvard's President Alan M. Garber has said that political disagreements could pose an existential threat to educational institutions. Because a cut in funds is being used to coerce universities to change their policies regarding student admissions, protests on campus, faculty recruitment, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programmes.

In India, the control of institutions of higher learning has increasingly slipped out of the hands of academics to the bureaucracies in the Ministries of Education and the University Grants Commission over the last 40 years. Academics in India are facing growing challenges related to teaching and research. The institutions they work in do not come to their defence, as seen in a recent case of a prestigious private university. All this represents a shift in the fine balance in the societal role of institutions of higher learning. The U.S. system was a model to emulate and even that is being dismantled.

The inherent tension

There is an inherent tension in the social role of universities. On one side they are required to generate socially relevant knowledge to meet the evolving challenges society faces while on the other, they are expected to reproduce the existing societal structures.

To fulfil their creative role, academia requires autonomy. The heart and soul of creativity is what makes societies dynamic. Unfortunately, rulers while paying lip service to this are hollowing it out in practice.

Autonomy enables academics to take a long-term view of emerging social challenges, even anticipating them. Given the accelerating pace of change, by the time society becomes aware of the change, it becomes too late to tackle it. For instance, developments in Artificial Intelligence and social media are leading to challenges for employment, the issue of fake news and the nature of war.

Autonomy enables current orthodoxy to be challenged and facilitates the generation of new knowledge. Without Galileo challenging the Church our understanding of the universe would not have advanced. Further, dynamism comes when academics who are aware of their own assumptions question them.

Academics are a product of a time-consuming process. We do not know how to produce a Mahalanobis. He emerged out of an environment of freedom of thought that a university provides. In a shotgun approach, the system produces original thinkers who change the course of their discipline and give society new leads. The wider the catchment area, the higher the chance of producing excellence.

> Autonomy and an anti-establishment character are now anathema to regimes across the world with a narrow agenda

Autonomy is needed all the way down the line. Universities need autonomy from vested interests to shield individual academics who generate new knowledge. Autonomy is not just for a vice chancellor or a director of an institute but it must be embedded in the structure of the institutions to enable the autonomy of functioning to individual academics.

Autonomy enables academics to develop their own view of their discipline which guides their research and teaching and which helps them resist orthodoxy and imposition so that originality flowers. Challenging orthodoxy ought to be the second nature of academics which includes their own institutions. While that slows down decision making in institutions, it results in more robust decisions. Authorities running these institutions have to accept this and function democratically. Dissent is essential and not a malaise to be eliminated. A bureaucrat or a bureaucratised academic would not understand this and that is why such people are most often not suited to head a university.

Challenging orthodoxy produces the tension between 'what universities ought to be' and 'what rulers expect' of them. Heads of institutions of higher learning have to negotiate this tension and academics are better suited for it than those with bureaucratised mindset.

Cultivating dissent makes universities anti-establishment while the rulers expect them to promote their agenda and reproduce the existing social relations. A feudal system would not like the birthright of the rulers to be challenged and a capitalist system would want docile labour rather than aware workers who challenge the notion of 'dollar vote' that undermines democracy.

Autonomy as impediment?

The anti-establishment character is anathema to regimes with a narrow agenda and lacking in confidence. They limit autonomy to help push their agenda. They neither need new ideas nor value them, thereby downgrading the role of universities and their social status. This forces academics to become status quoist.

Both rapid technical change and marketisation create a mist of the future resulting in short termism and a stultified view of society's future and the past. Complex ideas are neither understood nor valued and are turned into a caricature. An ahistorical view of society is propagated to fit the agenda of the rulers. Existing divides among people are exploited to further a narrow agenda and propagate conservatism by caricaturing an increasingly complex society. 'Democratization' via the Internet is helping the process by propagating instant ideas and opinions so that the imaginary is perceived to be the reality. This helps the rulers push their agenda.

The U.S. and China have operated with a long-term agenda which has enabled them to dominate the fast globalising world which is witnessing a rapid evolution of technology and ideas. For this, the U.S. created a huge system of independent universities and research institutes and attracted talent from all over the world. This is now being undermined by the attack on U.S. universities and their faculty.

Funding and autonomy

Columbia buckled under pressure but Harvard has stood firm and challenged the government in court. It has received support from academics and over 150 universities. But why are private universities with big endowments dependent on government funding?

Education and research are expensive. The faculty of universities need funds for projects across the board – in science and technology, social science and art and culture. Science and technology is crucial for development. But so is the social environment in which it flourishes. Creativity is multi-dimensional and requires a holistic view of research.

Funds for higher education ought to be free of strings to preserve autonomy. Private sector funding tends to be largely linked to the profit motive and affords limited autonomy. The burden then falls on public funding. This has been the case not only in India but also in the U.S. Only a liberal ruling regime can consider providing untied funds.

In India, since the private sector spends little on research, public funding is crucial. Post 1991, public funding in India declined in per capita terms and starved institutions of higher education. This has enabled the state to not only curb autonomy but also push its agenda by appointing people of its own proclivity as the heads of these institutions and also allowing them limited autonomy.

The key role of institutions of higher learning is to generate socially relevant knowledge. This requires autonomy to challenge orthodoxy, which makes them appear to be anti-establishment. This is the social tension in their role as reproducers of societal structures and generators of new knowledge. Creeping short termism has led to a simplistic understanding of society and growing conservatism. Often the imaginary masquerades as new knowledge. All this undermines the value of universities in society and they get hollowed out while retaining the façade and none is left to defend their autonomy. This is what Harvard's Dr. Garber pointed to.

Regulating India's virtual digital assets revolution

Urvi Pathak

is a lawyer working at the intersection of competition law and technology

India continues to lead in grassroots crypto adoption, for the second consecutive year in the 'Geography of Crypto' report by Chainalysis (2024). A National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) report finds that Indian retail investors poured $6.6 billion into crypto assets and predicts the industry could create over eight lakh jobs by 2030. India also boasts one of the largest and fastest-growing web3 developer cohorts.

This vibrancy may seem surprising, given the rocky journey of crypto, known as 'Virtual Digital Assets' (VDA), in India, within the domestic regulatory and policy landscape. In May 2025, the Supreme Court of India questioned the absence of comprehensive and clear crypto regulation in India, with a remark, "Banning may be shutting your eyes to ground reality". This observation highlights the dissonance between VDA reality and VDA policy which has created significant challenges for regulators and market players.

Navigating India's VDA regulatory gaps

India, as a country of strict capital controls and tightly regulated payment systems, has found it difficult to reconcile these frameworks with the decentralised nature of VDAs. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as the domestic regulator of monetary policy, began expressing concerns about the potential threats of crypto as early as 2013, highlighting the risks associated with their lack of authorisation from any central bank or monetary authority. Despite this warning, the market saw unassailed growth in India, leading the RBI to issue a second circular in 2018, barring financial institutions from dealing with VDA-related entities. This restriction proved short-lived, with the Court overturning the circular in 2020.

The government then turned to prohibitive taxation policies as a stop-gap measure while appropriate regulations were formulated. In 2022, India implemented two key tax policies for VDAs under the Income Tax Act: a 1% tax deducted at source (TDS) on VDA transactions exceeding ₹10,000 under Section 194S and a 30% capital gains tax under Section 115BBH which disallows loss offsetting. Although these measures were designed to enhance transparency and curb speculation, their effectiveness has been limited.

> There is a wide gap between reality and policy, creating challenges for regulators and market players

Estimates by various industry reports and think tanks show that between July 2022 and December 2023, Indians traded over ₹1.03 trillion worth of VDAs on non-compliant platforms, with only 9% of the estimated ₹1.12 trillion in VDAs held on domestic exchanges. Offshore trading resulted in a loss of ₹2,488 crore in uncollected VDA tax revenue for India. Between December 2023 and October 2024, Indians traded over ₹2.63 trillion on offshore platforms. The cumulative uncollected TDS from offshore exchanges since July 2022 is estimated to exceed ₹60 billion, with the nine blocked exchanges accounting for over 60% of this trading volume. Efforts to block access to non-compliant platforms, such as URL blocking, had limited success. Trade volumes on blocked exchanges rebounded after temporary declines, and web traffic to these platforms rose by 57%. Users continued to bypass restrictions using virtual private networks (VPN), mirror platforms or servers, and by migrating to other non-compliant exchanges.

Role of VASPs

Guidelines by global standard-setting bodies, such as the International Monetary Fund, Financial Stability Board, and the Financial Action Task Force, converge in favour of comprehensive and risk-based regulation that is harmonised with international standards (a process that is underway). However, these frameworks and regulations rely on domestic, compliant intermediaries or Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASP) that act as the bridge and eyes for regulators. These intermediaries facilitate the alignment of the VDA industry with existing laws and enforcement of policies, and enhance visibility over the ecosystem, while providing crucial inputs concerning on-the-ground issues.

In contrast, India's existing policy regime, which inadvertently pushes VDA users to offshore, non-compliant platforms, erodes the country's ability to mitigate the risks presented by VDAs, as well as tax revenues that may have otherwise been collected.

In comparison, Indian VASP platforms are sharpening their teeth and maturing rapidly, having shown a willingness to comply with regulations and act in good faith. For example, their collaboration with the Financial Intelligence Unit-India has been instrumental in strengthening anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing controls, earning positive feedback from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The aftermath of the devastating hack in 2024, which wiped out $230 million, further showcased proactive measures by Indian exchanges. Many stepped up efforts such as enhancing cyber security measures, setting up dedicated insurance funds in case of future thefts, and uniting to develop and enforce industry-wide cybersecurity guidelines.

Need for a framework

These possibilities signal the critical role played by VASPs towards a safer digital asset ecosystem. Combined with their contributions to national value creation and economic growth, these platforms present a more viable and constructive channel for funds to flow through under the oversight of Indian regulators. To move beyond the current policy stasis – where tax is levied without meaningful regulation – a balanced, pragmatic and future-proof regulatory framework is necessary. India must take decisive action to create the comprehensive legislation that the crypto industry requires while mitigating associated risks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CDS statement, fog clears

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan's statement, that an unspecified number of India's fighter jets were downed during the hostilities with Pakistan in May, is sure to give ammunition to the Opposition parties and their earlier claims (Page 1, June 1). The Government could have avoided this embarrassing situation had it functioned transparently. When losses are a part of any combat scenario, one wonders why the government was so reluctant to brief the nation on the subject.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

The CDS has put an end to the attempts at obfuscation by the Government about losses during Operation Sindoor. When the demand was raised by some Opposition parties and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the powers that be tried to confuse the country and, worse, labelled the Opposition as anti-national. The Centre has no fig leaf now to block the demand by the Opposition to hold a special session of Parliament.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

The CDS's silence on the extent of India's losses raises more questions than answers. It is clear that India lost something significant on the first day of its confrontation with Pakistan. The people have the right to know the extent of these "losses in the air".

S. Ramakrishnasayee,
Chennai

Valmik Thapar

The passing of naturalist Valmik Thapar is a loss for wildlife management too. His bond with Ranthambore and his deep study and works are invaluable contributions to the conservation of India's pride, the tiger.

Monita Sutherson,
Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Whose mountain is it, anyway?

On May 18, five people from the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS) scaled Mt Khangchendzonga from the Nepal side, prompting expressions of concern and protest by civil society groups and Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang. Sikkim's native population holds the mountain sacred and the State government disallows attempts to climb it or scale its peak from the Indian side. One side of Mt Khangchendzonga faces Nepal, a country that hasn't instituted a similar ban and which the NIMAS team took advantage of.

Vasudevan Mukunth

Tensions over mountains

There has been a resurgence of the assertion of spiritual beliefs over mountains of late. Mountains are important sources of water, which is increasingly becoming a strategic resource. They straddle geo-dynamic features we need to know to understand the land we live on. But in a world grappling with the effects of climate change, mountain ecosystems worldwide also rank among the most vulnerable. This renders the stewardship provided by indigenous communities important, especially in the form of indigenous knowledge that allowed people to coexist sustainably with their environs for centuries. Of course, there are other reasons to respect indigenous communities' beliefs, including building resilient societies and redressing historical injustice.

In parallel, there is still a need to understand mountains from scientific and military points of view, and physical access often yields the best data. The resulting tensions have become more pronounced in the last two decades or so. As the recent incident illustrates, the key has always been stakeholder involvement and scientists and military personnel being okay with hearing the word 'no'.

This is why work on the Thirty-Meter Telescope (of which India is a government-level member) was stalled from 2014 after the Kānaka Maoli community protested its construction on their sacred Mauna Kea. Native Hawaiians have also opposed the U.S. Space Forces AMOS-STAR project on the Haleakalā shield volcano on similar grounds. Atacameño communities in Chile have warned of "spiritual" loss over the construction of telescopes in Cerro Armazones and Cerro Paranal.

In many instances, governments presume scientific and defence needs should override indigenous rights. Surveys to assess eco-spiritual rights are often conducted after indigenous groups have mounted large protests, and not before the project is commissioned. The India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) faced similar opposition over locals' inability to access a temple located near the planned project site thanks to the presence of police personnel. While the INO scientists have said the police shouldn't have been present, much less denying access to the area, the incident only illustrates the sort of heavy-handedness large and expensive projects open the door to while denying indigenous communities their rights.

Sharper legal instruments

Fortunately, however, thanks to the initiative of civil society groups led by youth, the election of indigenous individuals to government positions, technological advances, and the pressures of climate adaptation and sustainability, the legal instruments available to assert indigenous rights are becoming sharper. The UN principle of 'free prior and informed consent' of indigenous peoples is bolstered by its Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and convention 169 of the International Labour Organisation. Sikkim's notifications consecrating Mt Khangchendzonga were under the Places of Worship Act, 1991.

Overall, it is becoming cheaper both in monetary and extra-monetary ways (including the risk of reputational harm) to consult first than to litigate later. Heavy-handedness still prevails but there is progress, and governments need to be part of it, including in the arena of military action. As Article 30 of the UNDRIP says, "States shall undertake effective consultations with the indigenous peoples concerned... prior to using their lands... for military activities."

Consultative actions that account for political variables can also ensure neither indigenous groups nor governments resort to heavy-handedness of their own. For example, a volcanology programme in 2014 involved the governments of North Korea, China, and the U.K. to study the revered Paektu mountain on the North Korea-China border to understand when it might erupt next. On the flip side, after protests in Bhutan over foreign expeditions to the Gangkhar Puensum peak, the government banned attempts to climb more than 6,000 m above sea level in 1994 and altogether banned mountaineering in 2003.

NIMAS is an autonomous institute under India's Ministry of Defence. The NIMAS team's endeavour on May 18 was part of the Indian Army's 'Har Shikhar Tiranga' campaign to plant the Indian flag on the highest point of each State. Even if this wasn't explicit military action, its purpose was to stoke national pride and build support for India's war rhetoric. By sidestepping local support for its ascent and planting the Indian flag on the mountain from the Nepal side, the NIMAS team has cheapened the struggles of native peoples to lower the cost of consulting them. If it had consulted them and they had refused access, the NIMAS team could still have achieved its goal by planting the flag at another spot. National integrity is also important for national security.

There has been a resurgence of the assertion of spiritual beliefs over mountains of late

A sinking feeling for 'Brand Bengaluru'

Little thought is being given to the problems that arose from the city's 'growth'

STATE OF PLAY

K.C. Deepika
deepika.kc@thehindu.co.in

For long-time residents of Bengaluru, it is beginning to feel like there is too much happening all at once. There are talks of extending Namma Metro to neighbouring cities. Work has started for a suburban rail network. The State government is busy pushing for a contentious network of tunnel roads to connect traffic-choked ends. And the civic body, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), is being split into multiple corporations with the hope that they will manage the city better.

Ironically, while these projects are being planned keeping the city's future in mind, there is little thought being given to existing problems, which arose out of Bengaluru's "growth". All it takes is for the sky to open up a few times for all that lies beneath the shine of 'Brand Bengaluru' to be exposed. For the motorists caught on dangerously waterlogged roads, the residents of layouts that are inundated after a few spells of rain, and the families of those who lost their lives in a a flooded underpass or a tree fall, the statements of ministers promising removal of encroachments only provide a sense of déjà vu.

The Chief Minister's Office said in a recent statement that the pre-monsoon rains in 2025 were the highest recorded during the season and in the month of May in the last 125 years. The rainfall recorded in the pre-monsoon period (March 1 to May 31) was 286 mm against the normal 115 mm. The actual rainfall was 219 mm against the normal 74 mm for May. The India Meteorological Department, Bengaluru, said the city received a record 307.9 mm of rainfall between May 1 and May 26 (till 11.30 a.m.). Bengaluru received a staggering 105.5 mm of rainfall in the 24-hour period between 8.30 a.m. on May 18 and 8.30 a.m. on May 19 – the second highest since 2011. This caught the authorities, who were still preparing for the monsoon, off guard.

High-impact weather events have been occurring more frequently and with greater intensity globally. Many parts of Bengaluru were under water during the monsoon and post-monsoon seasons in 2015, 2017, 2020, and 2022. In 2023, Karnataka was hit by drought, which led to a water crisis in many parts of the State in 2024.

Why, then, have the civic authorities not learned any lessons? Bengaluru was once famed for its network of lakes. These served as flood management tools by harvesting rainwater and storing excess water. As the city grew, the government focused on providing piped water supply from the Cauvery river. It ignored lakes to the point where hundreds of them disappeared, making way for real estate, stadiums, and bus stands. Rivers that originate or flow through the city, such as the Vrushabhavathy, continue to be in a state of neglect.

During the 2024 summer water crisis, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board came up with a knee-jerk response. It filled up a few lakes with treated water to push up groundwater levels. This year, 63 of the 183 lakes under the BBMP have already reached full capacity before the monsoon season, raising questions about how important flood-mitigation barriers have been compromised.

Citizen activists and experts have also repeatedly pointed to the reduced carrying capacity of drains due to the build-up of silt and flow of sewage. This has caused rainwater to overflow into the streets, leading to severe water-logging.

The Karnataka Lokayukta, which took up a suo motu case about flooding in Bengaluru after the recent episode, said that the main reasons for flooding were negligence of officials and lack of coordination between various agencies. Justice B.S. Patil also directed officials to speed up de-silting work of drains, ensure a gradient to facilitate flow of water in them, and remove all encroachments on drains.

Bengaluru is in the throes of an administrative transformation as the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will replace the BBMP, which came into being in 2007, as the city's primary governing body. The GBA aims to bring all the major agencies working in Bengaluru under one structure, which will be headed by the Chief Minister of Karnataka. Some civic activists fear this will result in centralisation of administration and power.

Will this lead to a more cohesive and comprehensive approach to managing the city, especially in the light of extreme weather events? Or will the residents continue to suffer the same problems as the focus remains on extravagant projects? It is too early to tell.

India's rise to 4th largest economy belies per capita reality

Comparisons based solely on absolute GDP offer limited insight into the lived realities of people

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently projected that India will edge past Japan to become the world's fourth largest economy in 2025. While this marks a notable milestone, comparisons based solely on absolute Gross Domestic Product (GDP) offer limited insight into the lived realities of people.

Absolute GDP figures are useful for understanding the size of an economy, but they do not capture how wealth is distributed, how developed a country is, or how its citizens are faring. They mask disparities in population size, cost of living, and income inequality. A country may have a large economy overall, but that doesn't necessarily translate into prosperity or improved living standards for its people.

For instance, as **Chart 1A** shows, India's absolute GDP (in $ billion) is estimated to have risen from $468.4 billion in 2000 to $4,187 billion in 2025, narrowly surpassing Japan's figures in the process. However, as **Chart 1B** shows, India's GDP per capita is 12 times lower than Japan's in 2025.

To drive home the point, let us add Poland to the comparison – a country often cited for its quick transition from a lower middle-income to a high-income economy. As seen in Chart 1A, Poland's total GDP is around four times smaller than India's, but as Chart 1B shows, its GDP per capita is nearly nine times higher.

While economic growth is an important marker of a country's progress, it is equally vital to assess the strides made in social, educational, health, and democratic indicators, as advancements in these areas offer a more meaningful measure of true prosperity. The following paragraphs present indicators related to these dimensions, comparing India, Poland, and Japan across two time periods – the latest available data and figures from roughly two decades ago.

First, consider the nature of employment. As shown in **Charts 2A, 2B, and 2C**, as of 2023, nearly 45% of India's workforce was still employed in agriculture. In contrast, the share in both Poland and Japan had fallen below 10%, with a corresponding rise in employment in the industrial and services sectors.

On the regular employment front, the share of wage and salaried workers – those with formal employment contracts – was just 23.9% in India in 2023, compared to 91% in Japan and 80.1% in Poland **(Chart 3)**.

The gross enrolment rate in college-level education, after completion of secondary school, was 32.7% in India in 2022, compared to close to 65% and 75% in Japan and Poland, respectively **(Chart 4)**.

On the health front, the life expectancy of a person was 72 years for an average Indian in 2023, compared to 84 years in Japan and 78.5 years in Poland **(Chart 5).**

Access to adequate healthcare is also reflected in a country's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), or the number of deaths per 1,000 live births of children under one year of age. While the IMR of all the mentioned countries halved between 2000 and 2023, India's IMR remains at 24.5, while Japan and Poland both record less than five such deaths per 1,000 births.

Put together, these reflect in the measure of the Human Development Index in these countries. The HDI is a composite measure that assesses a country's overall achievement in health, education, and standard of living. The HDI is expressed as a number between 0 and 1, with 1 indicating high human development. India's HDI of 0.685 in 2023 shows 'medium development', while the HDIs of Japan and Poland crossed the 0.9 mark, pointing to very high human development **(Chart 6)**.

A detailed picture

The data for the charts were sourced from the International Monetary Fund's "World Economic Outlook (April 2025)", the World Bank's indicator database, International Labour Organization Statistics, and Our World in Data

With inputs from Bharat A. Ramana, who is interning with the data team

Chart 1A: The absolute Gross Domestic Product (in $ billion) of select countries in 2000 and 2025

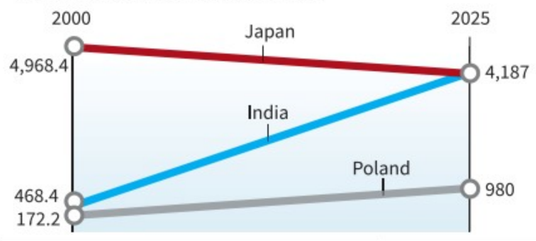


Chart 1B: The GDP per capita (in U.S. $) of select countries in 2000 and 2025

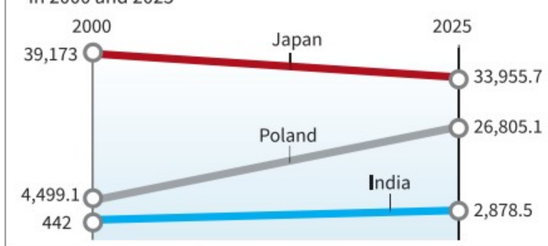


Chart 2A: The share of employment in the agriculture sector in select countries in 2000 and 2023 (in %)

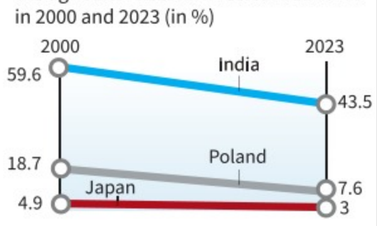


Chart 2B: The share of employment in the industrial sector in select countries in 2000 and 2023 (in %)

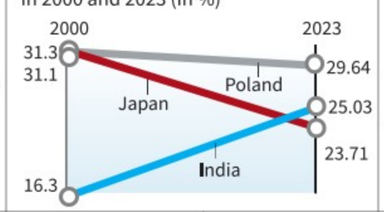


Chart 2C: The share of employment in the service sector in select countries in 2000 and 2023 (in %)

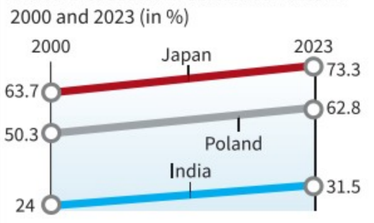


Chart 3: The share of wage and salaried workers out of the total employed population in select countries in 2000 and 2023 (in %)

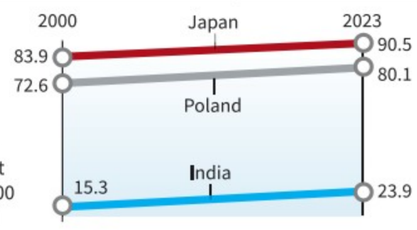


Chart 4: The gross enrolment rate in college-level education in select countries in 1995 and 2022 (in %)

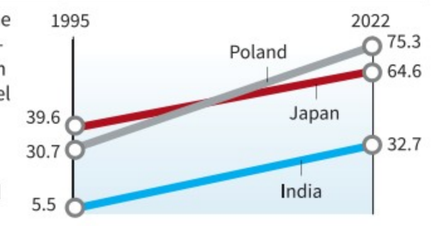


Chart 5: The average life expectancy of a person from select countries in 2000 and 2023 (in years)

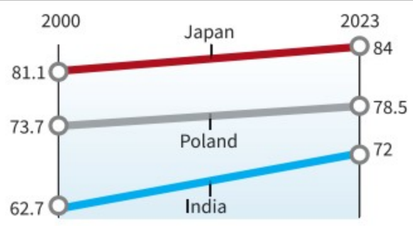
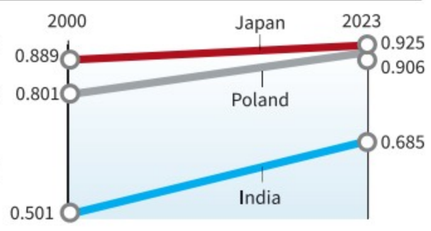


Chart 6: The Human Development Index of select countries in 2000 and 2023



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 2, 1975

Space programme not hit by snags in Aryabhata

Madras, June 1: The Indian space satellite programme would not be affected because of the difficulties experienced in the functioning of Aryabhata, Prof. Satish Dhawan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), said here to-day.

Prof. Dhawan said that the malfunctioning of some of the equipment on board the Aryabhata was due to the failure of the "power transistor" system. The fault was detected by the ISRO scientists after careful scrutiny of the material received by Mission Control at Bangalore.

These scientists were now working round the clock studying the possibility of reviving the experiments. Even such "drastic steps" like sending electronic pulses to activate the instruments abroad the satellite were being considered. But it was too early to say whether "we will succeed in this task," Prof. Dhawan said.

Tracing the initial difficulties encountered by the satellite immediately after it was launched, he said even after a few orbits, it started "tumbling" and did not "spin" as expected. The satellite was made of non-magnetic material but even then there was some drag on it, thereby slowing it down. The latest information was that it was normal and orbiting according to the programme, he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 2, 1925

Mettur project

Ootacamund, June 2: The preliminary work and arrangements in connection with the construction of the Mettur Dam, I am informed, have now reached an advanced stage and the Chief Engineer is making a preliminary call for tenders for the mass work in the Dam and the subsidiary works. Arrangements are also being made, it is said, for the purchase of the necessary plant. It is proposed with a view to shorten the time of construction and effect economy, that the most modern plant should be used in the construction of the dam. The materials will be handled by the most modern type of transporters designed to land materials on the works - direct with the minimum of intermediate handling. It is probable that an electric driver will be used for much of the machinery and this point is under consideration.

From Page One

Lakhs hit as Northeast India battered by rain

Mr. Sarma warned the people of Assam to be wary of a sharp rise in river water levels due to heavy rainfall at Kibithoo (17 cm), Hayuliang (15 cm), and Kalaktang (10 cm) in Arunachal Pradesh. "Assam is witnessing intense rain in Silchar (42 cm), Karimganj (35 cm), and Hailakandi (30 cm). People living in low-lying and riverbank areas are advised to stay alert and follow local advisories," he said.

The submergence of tracks in the Karimganj section of southern Assam's Barak Valley forced the Northeast Frontier Railway to cancel several trains.

The floods in Tripura affected over 1,300 families. Chief Minister Manik Saha said the flood-affected people in the West Tripura district were being moved to safer areas, adding that the administration was helping marooned people across the State.

A delegation of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC), led by its president Keisham Meghachandra Singh, visited the flood-affected areas of the Imphal East district. Mr. Singh criticised the Water Resources Department for its failure to implement adequate flood management measures in flood-prone areas across Manipur.

"Several anti-erosion and flood control projects initiated under the Flood Management and Border Area Programme of the Union Ministry of Water Resources remain incomplete," he said.

Deadly landslides

Mizoram continued to be one of the worst-affected States in the region, with officials recording landslides and landslips from 211 locations. At a review meeting headed by Chief Minister Lalduhoma, officials said 60 houses had collapsed while 69 more were deserted for fear of collapse, and seven power sub-stations suffered extensive damage, while roads were blocked at 83 locations.

Bangladesh tribunal indicts ex-PM Hasina

The tribunal's verdict, telecast live on state-run *BTV*, came as the result of multiple cases lodged against Ms. Hasina by the victims of police violence in July and August 2024, when an anti-quota movement led by students quickly turned into a wider "single-agenda movement" to overthrow Ms. Hasina.

During the last stages of her government, a video went viral on social media showing Mr. Kamal inspecting the police crackdown. The video was cited by the interim administration as a proof of the former Home Minister's involvement in the violent crackdown.

Strain on bilateral ties

Ms. Hasina's presence in India was confirmed by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. On August 6, 2024, he had briefed both Houses of Parliament about the Union government's decision to grant her refuge on short notice due to the volatile developments in Bangladesh.

Bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh have been uneasy since last August because of Ms. Hasina's presence in India. The ICT's demand to Dhaka's interim government to produce Ms. Hasina before the tribunal is expected to exacerbate frictions in the relationship.

Mr. Kamal's location is not known, though it is believed that he has also been living abroad. Mr. Al Mamun is currently in police custody in Dhaka, as he was arrested along with former IGP A.K.M. Shahidul Hoque on September 4, 2024.

The ICT faced a setback last week after A.T.M. Azharul Islam, a leader of the Al Badr militia and the Jamaat-e-Islami of Bangladesh, was acquitted by an appellate Bench of the Bangladesh Supreme Court. Mr. Islam had been given a death sentence by the ICT in 2014 but the appellate Bench of the Supreme Court overturned the ICT's verdict on May 27.

Minor rape victim dies of injuries in Patna hospital

The 11-year-old girl was found in a pit with 20 knife wounds in Muzaffarpur; Congress leader says she was left in an ambulance outside Patna hospital for five hours before being admitted

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

A minor girl who was allegedly raped and found with nearly 20 knife wounds in Muzaffarpur died in the Patna Medical College and Hospital on Sunday. The brutal assault took place on May 26, the police said.

The 11-year-old girl from a Dalit community was transferred to Patna on Saturday for better medical treatment, but was allegedly left in pain inside the ambulance outside the Patna hospital for about five hours. She was admitted after intervention by Bihar Congress president Rajesh Kumar.

The police said the girl was found in a pit at a brick kiln with nearly 20 knife injuries on and around her neck. A first information report (FIR) was lodged against a 30-year-old man on a complaint filed by the girl's uncle, and the accused was arrested the same evening.

Animesh Chandra Gyani, Sub-Divisional Police Officer, West-2 Muzaffarpur, told *The Hindu*, "Doctor has confirmed rape."

Widespread outrage: Bihar Congress president Rajesh Kumar, with supporters, burn an effigy during a protest against the death of a minor girl, in Patna on Sunday. ANI

The girl was initially treated at the Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital in Muzaffarpur and underwent surgery that lasted hours, but doctors had said she remained critical. The girl was under the care of her mother and cousin after the death of her father.

Following the death of the girl, Congress workers in Muzaffarpur blocked the road while raising slogans against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Health Minister Mangal Pandey.

Mr. Rajesh Kumar blamed the State government for her death and alleged she died due to lack of proper and timely treatment. Congress workers also burnt the effigies of the Chief Minister and the Health Minister in Patna.

"The irresponsible JD (U)-BJP government pushed the minor Dalit rape victim to death with their mismanagement. The incident happened on May 26, and while the Congress party has been raising the issue continuously, neither the Muzaffarpur District Magistrate nor Patna AIIMS hospital and PMCH paid heed to it," Mr. Rajesh Kumar said.

He further said, "We had also appealed for airlifting the girl to the Delhi AIIMS, but the government did not listen."

Double-engine govt. in Bihar failed to save her life, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shama Mohamed

Condemning the alleged rape and murder of an 11-year-old Dalit girl in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, the Congress on Sunday said the "double-engine government" in the State had failed to save her life.

Taking to social media platform X, senior leader Rahul Gandhi said the brutality against the minor girl and the subsequent negligence in her treatment were "extremely shameful". "If she had received timely treatment, her life could have been saved. Let alone provide security, the double-engine government was negligent about saving her life. We will not sit quiet until the victim's family gets justice. Strict action should be taken against the culprits and negligent officers," he wrote.

Addressing a press conference at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) office, senior party leader and Rajya Sabha member Ranjeet Ranjan and party spokesperson Shama Mohamed alleged that the administration allowed the rapist to "roam free", though he was a serial offender.

Ms. Ranjan noted that the victim was left to die near a brick kiln after her brutal rape. While she was first admitted to a local hospital in Muzaffarpur, she was taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna after her condition deteriorated but doctors there refused to admit her, allegedly due to the unavailability of specialists required for the multi-speciality treatment, she said.

It took the intervention of Bihar Congress chief Rajesh Kumar for the victim to be admitted to the Patna Medical College and Hospital and that too was after five hours, the Congress MP claimed.

Ms. Mohamed claimed that criminals were feeling emboldened as the BJP government had "let powerful and influential people go scot-free despite serious charges".

In a first in 2 decades, EC revises voter list for June 19 bypolls

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

For the first time in nearly two decades, the Election Commission revised the voters' list of five constituencies for holding Assembly byelections in a bid to ensure a "spotless" electoral roll.

The last time a special summary revision took place for a bypoll was in 2006 in Tamil Nadu, officials pointed out.

Citing provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, officials said the electoral roll was to be revised before every election and bypoll unless otherwise directed by the EC.

If the electoral roll was not revised, the validity or continued operation of the said electoral roll should not be affected, they said, quoting the law.

The validity of the current electoral roll continues till the completion of the special revision.

The EC undertook this step to ensure a spotless electoral roll.

Officials underlined that it was for the commission to decide if revision of electoral rolls had to be conducted or not, depending on the requirement.

Bypolls to five Assembly seats in four States will be held on June 19, the poll authority announced last month.

While two Assembly bypolls will be held in Gujarat, one each will take place in Kerala, West Bengal and Punjab. The counting of votes will take place on June 23.

Modi government believes in helping the last man in the queue, says Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

From putting the country on the path of economic progress to lifting 25 crore people above the poverty line, the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has taken various measures for the welfare of all sections of society, drawing inspiration from former Jan Sangh leader Deendayal Upadhyaya's idea of integral humanism, said Union Minister and BJP president J.P. Nadda here on Sunday.

Mr. Nadda was delivering the valedictory address at a two-day conference on the completion of 60 years of Upadhyaya's ideological formulation of integral humanism. Mr. Nadda said Upadhyaya had felt that "a vast country like India cannot be governed successfully through a centralised system but rather through a decentralised one".

J.P. Nadda

He added that the development of the last man in the queue was fundamental to the concept of integral humanism, and this was reflected in the welfare policies undertaken by the Modi government.

Welfare goals

"The Modi government has empowered women, farmers and marginalised sections of society by taking various measures for them, while others only talked about doing so," he said, mounting a veiled attack on the Congress and other Opposition parties.

He said that the government had provided cooking gas connections to more than 10 crore households, constructed 12 crore toilets and built four crore pucca houses.

"There were lots of discussions on farmers. Every politician started becoming a farmer leader. However, it was our Atal Bihari Vajpayee first (during his term as the Prime Minister) and then PM Narendra Modi who changed the destiny of farmers, taking inspiration from Upadhyaya's integral humanism," he said.

For farmers' welfare, the Modi government had taken various measures and rolled out the Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, soil health card programme and crop insurance scheme, he added.

HC refuses to quash FIR against P&G in patent case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has refused to quash an FIR against Procter & Gamble (P&G) in a case involving allegations of cheating by using the patented idea of an Indian innovator for commercial exploitation.

The January 2024 FIR, lodged pursuit to a complaint by Rajiv Rai Sachdev, alleges that P&G invited him to collaborate by submitting a patented innovation as part of a programme. He claimed he shared a proprietary method of dyeing textiles using neem and holy basil extracts – a technology he had patented in India, the U.S., and Europe.

While P&G later expressed disinterest in a formal partnership, Mr. Sachdev claimed it went on to launch a product allegedly using the technology submitted by him.

India warms to foreign law firms, but concerns simmer

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

In the winter of February 2000, a sea of black coats surged towards Parliament House. Braving water cannons, tear gas, and lathi charge, over 40,000 lawyers staged an intense protest aimed at blocking the entry of foreign law firms and lawyers into the Indian legal system.

A quarter of a century later, the landscape has shifted dramatically. On May 14, the Bar Council of India (BCI) – the regulatory authority for the legal profession – formally notified a set of rules permitting foreign law firms and lawyers to practice in India. Their role, however, is restricted: they may operate only in non-litigious matters, limited to foreign and international law, and solely on a reciprocal basis.

The nationwide agitation 25 years ago was triggered by the Law Commission's Working Paper, which proposed amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961, to allow foreign legal consultants to practice in India.

"The entire legal fraternity stood united," recalled advocate and former Delhi Bar Association president Rajiv Khosla, who had led the lawyers' march and lost an eye in a scuffle with the police.

The Supreme Court later reinforced this sentiment in March 2018 when it ruled that foreign law firms and foreign lawyers could not practise law in the country either on the litigation or non-litigation side.

One of the central arguments then was reciprocity, given that Indian advocates were not allowed to practise in the U.K., U.S., Australia, and other foreign nations without complying with onerous restrictions such as qualifying tests, proof of experience, and work permits.

The Bar Council of India rules allow foreign law firms in India for non-litigious, international law work, only on reciprocal basis.

The turnaround

In March 2023, the BCI floated a notification permitting foreign lawyers to function in non-litigious areas only. Although that notification was challenged in the Delhi High Court, and remains under judicial consideration, the latest iteration in May 2025 has cemented the policy shift.

Lalit Bhasin, chairman of the Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF), who was once a vocal opponent of foreign law firms entering India, reflected on the shift in tone: "We welcome them. They can learn from us, we can learn from them. It would be a good opening for our young lawyers also who can work with them."

'Old wine in new bottle'

Still, he expressed concerns that the latest BCI notification might contravene the Supreme Court's 2018 rulings. Mr. Bhasin said the BCI's 2023 notification was kept in abeyance, but the current development amounts to "old wine in a new bottle".

"Our view is, why can't Parliament just amend the law, that is, the Advocates Act, giving liberty to foreign lawyers to come to India to practise? Because the existing law does not permit it," Mr. Bhasin stressed.

Haigreve Khaitan, senior partner at Khaitan & Co, called the move "a positive step". He said, "This will result in increased knowledge sharing, innovation, and faster adoption of global best practices."

Former Bar Council of Delhi chairman K.C. Mittal raised questions about reciprocity. "The whole action is against the Advocates Act, as the same requires amendments in the basic Act. The claim of reciprocity is illusionary. Reciprocal means our law degree and enrolments certificates are recognised by them and any lawyer from India can go, appear and argue but it is not so," he said.

Mr. Khosla echoed these concerns. "So far, the BCI has not specified which countries have extended reciprocal access to Indian lawyers. Other countries aren't accepting us, yet we are moving ahead – I don't understand why," he said.

HC order protects Jaggi Vasudev's personality rights

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has passed an order protecting the personality rights and publicity rights of Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, the founder of Isha Foundation, and restrained various rogue websites from misusing his personality traits by deploying artificial intelligence (AI).

The court passed the interim order in favour of Mr. Vasudev in his suit seeking protection for his personality rights from infringement by rogue websites and unknown entities.

It said Mr. Vasudev had acquired uniqueness pertaining to his personality in relation to his voice, name, signature, image, likeness, vocal, articulation style, and his unique attire, looks or appearance.

The court ordered the suspension of accounts and the takedown of YouTube channels that exclusively pertained to content infringing upon Mr. Vasudev's personality rights and directed that their basic subscriber information be disclosed. It directed the Department of Telecommunications and the Electronics and the Information Technology Ministry to issue notifications or directions to social media platforms to block or suspend various websites, social media accounts, and channels infringing Mr. Vasudev exclusive rights.

Mamata rule coming to an end, BJP will form next govt.: Shah

Union Home Minister says the Murshidabad riots were 'State-sponsored', CM has allowed Bangladeshi infiltration to go on with her blessings; if BSF personnel had been deployed during the violence, Hindus would have been protected, he says

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Hitting out: Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressing Bharatiya Janata Party workers at an event in Kolkata on Sunday. DEBASISH BHADURI

Asserting that the Bharatiya Janata Party will form a government in West Bengal after the 2026 Assembly election, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's rule was coming to an end.

"*Didi* (Mamata Banerjee), your rule has come to an end. In 2026, BJP will form the government. *Didi*, I dare you to hold elections without violence and rigging, and the people of Bengal will ensure that you lose your deposit," he said.

Mr. Shah, who was in Kolkata during a two-day visit to the State, addressed the Vijay Sankalp Karyakarta Sammelan at Netaji Indoor Stadium, where the top leadership of the State BJP unit were present. The visit comes at a time when the party has been holding organisational elections, and there is no word yet on who will be the new Bengal unit president and lead the party in the 2026 polls.

The Home Minister's visit comes three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Alipurduar in West Bengal, where his remarks on Operation Sindoor triggered a war of words with Ms. Banerjee.

Like the Prime Minister, Mr. Shah touched upon the Murshidabad riots and described the violence as "State-sponsored".

"I have no hesitation in saying that the riots in Murshidabad were State-sponsored," he said. He added that while the Union Home Minister had insisted on deploying Central forces, the State government was not keen on it.

"The Ministry kept on insisting on the deployment of BSF during the Murshidabad riots, but the Trinamool government didn't allow it to happen so that the violence could continue. If BSF personnel had been deployed, Hindus would have been protected. It was only after BJP workers approached the High Court that the BSF was finally sent in," the senior BJP leader alleged.

Three persons had died and hundreds were left homeless at Murshidabad in the communal violence that erupted on April 11 and 12 over protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act.

Other issues

During his speech, the Home Minister spoke about the school recruitment scam and infiltration from across the border. "The elections in Bengal do not decide the fate of the State only, but are associated with national security. This is because Mamata Banerjee has allowed our borders to remain open for Bangladeshis. Infiltration is going on with her blessings," he said.

Of the 4,096.7 km border between India and Bangladesh, about 3,232.2 km has been fenced; a large part of the unfenced border lies in West Bengal.

Mr. Shah also accused the Trinamool chairperson of opposing "Operation Sindoor" and appealed to the "women of Bengal to explain the value of *sindoor* (vermilion) to those who are against Operation Sindoor, in the upcoming (Assembly) election".

He added that Ms. Banerjee had Opposed Sindoor to "appease the Muslim vote bank". "If *Didi* had felt this much pain when the people of Bengal were being killed in Pahalgam, it would have been understandable, but she said nothing at that time. Now, after PM Modi ji carried out Operation Sindoor, she opposed it with a petty political statement," he said.

Chirag may contest Bihar Assembly election from general seat, says LJP(RV)

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) on Sunday hinted that party supremo and Union Minister Chirag Paswan would contest the Bihar Assembly election from a general seat instead of a reserved seat.

In a social media post on X, Jamui MP Arun Bharti said that party workers wanted Mr. Paswan to contest a general seat to send out the message that he was now ready to lead not just one section of the people but the whole of Bihar.

In April, Mr. Paswan said he wanted to focus more on Bihar and did not want to spend much time at the Centre. The Assembly election in Bihar is due in October-November.

"Our National President Chirag Paswan*ji* always says that his politics is Bihar-centric and his vision 'Bihar First, Bihari First' is a resolution for a developed and self-reliant Bihar. This is only possible when he himself stays in Bihar and leads," Mr. Bharti said in the post.

"When I went from village to village as the State in-charge, people everywhere had only one demand - that Chirag*ji* should now play a bigger role in Bihar. Recently, in the party executive meeting, a resolution was also passed unanimously that he himself should contest the upcoming Assembly elections."

Chirag Paswan

Meeting with Nitish

Last month, Mr. Paswan had a closed-door meeting with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Patna, fuelling speculation about his plans for the upcoming election. It was believed that he wanted to keep Mr. Kumar in the loop before making a decision.

"The workers also feel that this time he should contest the elections not from a reserved seat, but from a general seat - so that the message goes out that he is now ready to lead the entire Bihar, not just one section. Chirag Paswan today is not just a representative; he is the hope of the entire Bihar. This step will give a new direction to the politics of social justice - in which the fight for representation as well as acceptance will be fought," Mr. Bharti asserted.

Reacting to the development, Janata Dal(U) spokesperson Abhishek Jha said that workers of any party always wanted their leader to get the top post.

"Every citizen of the country has the right to contest elections from any place. If there is talk of Chirag Paswan*ji* contesting the Assembly election, what's wrong in that? He himself has said that there is no vacancy for the CM post in Bihar as the entire NDA will contest the election under the leadership of Nitish Kumar," he said.

Rashtriya Janata Dal spokesperson Mritunjay Tiwary took a dig at the NDA, saying chaos had already started in the alliance over who would become the Chief Minister.

New U.P. DGP faces a tough challenge in controlling crime: BSP

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Mayawati asks the State government and others to give cooperation in establishing the rule of law in the State

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Sunday expressed concern over the law-and-order situation in Uttar Pradesh, and said the new Director-General of Police (DGP) faced a big challenge in controlling crime and establishing the rule of law.

"Due to the dominance of feudal and criminal elements in various States of the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, acts of casteist and communal hatred, violence, injustice, oppression and displacement of people etc. prove that the rule of law is not functioning properly," wrote Ms. Mayawati on social media platform X.

She said that under such circumstances, the new chief of the Uttar Pradesh police faced a big challenge to control crime, establish the rule of law in the State and provide proper relief to the people of all sections of society.

The BSP chief asked the State government and the people associated with the ruling party to give cooperation in establishing the rule of law.

The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday appointed 1991-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Rajeev Krishna as the new DGP.

'DGP meets CM'

Meanwhile, Mr. Krishna met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, reiterating his commitment to carry forward the priorities of the State government such as zero tolerance towards crime and corruption, women's safety, citizen-centric policing and excellence in law and order with full devotion.

Politics should not offset bid to project united front against terror: Khurshid

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> Our instincts told us to stand by the govt. and support need to bring offenders to justice...we hope to be back home with some gain for the country
>
> **SALMAN KHURSHID**
> Congress leader

Former Union Minister and Congress leader Salman Khurshid said on Sunday that the multi-party delegations sent by the Centre to various countries to explain India's stance on Operation Sindoor were seeking to secure "explicit support for the country and not highlight domestic political differences".

Mr. Khursid's comment came after reports that he had endorsed the Modi government's decision to abrogate the Special Status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and talked about how the move brought prosperity to the Union Territory. The Congress leader is part of the delegation that has visited Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

In a long Facebook post, Mr. Khurshid, who is a member of the Congress Working Committee, said, "Our instincts told us to stand by the government and support the need to bring the offenders to justice." In all strategic matters, there are varying opinions, and questions will be asked of the government as more information comes out, he added.

"But this debate should not spill over into the national endeavour to persuade the world about the core issue of terrorist attacks on India," Mr. Khursid wrote.

"Our parties sent us to secure explicit support from the countries we are visiting, not to highlight domestic party-political differences. In conclusion, we hope to be back home soon with some gain for the country. *Ma thuje salaam*."

Unlike when Congress leader Shashi Tharoor's commented on surgical strikes, the party has been silent on Mr. Khurshid's statement on Article 370.

The difference is because the Congress position on Article 370 has undergone a change – from strongly opposing the dilution in August 2019 to complete silence on it. Instead, the party now pushes for restoration of complete Statehood for J&K.

RSS invites Bastar tribal leader to key Nagpur event

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Arvind Netam, a prominent tribal leader from the Bastar region in Chhattisgarh and former Union Minister, will be the chief guest at a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh event in Nagpur later this week.

At the annual 'Karyakarta Vikas Varg Dwitiya Samapan Samaroh', a volunteers' event scheduled to be held in Reshmibagh in Nagpur on June 5, Mr. Netam will be sharing the stage with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, according to the invitation letter.

While Mr. Netam, a former Congressman, has categorically denied that the development has anything to do with his next political move, it has generated considerable buzz because it is an important event in the RSS calendar. Its significance was underlined in 2018 when former President, the late Pranab Mukherjee, attended as the chief guest.

'Appeasement politics': BJP flays Bengal govt. for influencer's arrest

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday slammed the West Bengal government for the arrest of influencer Sharmishta Panoli, accusing the Trinamool Congress dispensation of targeting the "young Hindu woman" to appease its vote bank.

According to sources, the West Bengal Police arrested the 22-year-old from Gurugram in Haryana on Friday night for allegedly uploading a video with communal comments claiming Bollywood actors were silent on Operation Sindoor.

On Saturday, a court in Kolkata sent Ms. Panoli to judicial custody till June 13.

'Selective enforcement'

Reacting sharply, BJP West Bengal co-in-charge Amit Malviya accused the Trinamool of "selectively enforcing" the law as part of its appeasement politics.

There have been no reports of communal unrest linked to her remarks, yet the Kolkata Police are acting with "uncharacteristic haste", Mr. Malviya said on the social media platform X.

Conspiracy to separate me from Tejashwi: Tej Pratap after expulsion from RJD

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Former Bihar Minister Tej Pratap Yadav on Sunday broke his silence a week after his expulsion from the RJD by his father and party chief, Lalu Prasad.

Without naming anyone, Mr. Tej, in a post on X, said some people had hatched a conspiracy to separate him from Tejashwi Yadav, his younger brother and Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly. Comparing himself to Lord Krishna and his brother to Arjuna, he asserted that he would soon expose those playing the role of Jaichand (betrayer).

Tej Pratap Yadav

Mr. Prasad had on May 25 expelled his elder son from the party for six years and snapped all family ties with him, stating that his actions were "irresponsible" and not in accordance with public conduct.

"My dear mom and dad, my whole world is just you two. You and your orders are greater than God. If you are there, I have everything. I only need your trust and love and nothing else," Mr. Tej posted.

"Papa, if you had not been there, this party would not have been there and neither would there be some greedy people like Jaichand who played politics with me," he said.

Sources said Mr. Prasad took action against his son after pictures of his remarriage were posted on his Facebook account. Mr. Tej later deleted that post claiming that his account was hacked.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
	Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.	
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/356/2025-26 Dt:30.05.2025	
1	Implementation of CMSS Software and Installation of OCU at 7 MLD UWTP at Puttenahalli under JHA funds coming under AEE(WWM-STP-H&A.V-2) Sub Division.	Rs. 108.91 Lakhs / Rs. 1.63 Lakhs
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/358/2025-26 Dt:30.05.2025	
2	Installation of dredging pump, Trash rack, macerators and implementation of CMSS Software at 40 MLD Doddabele UWTP under JHA funds coming under AEE(WWM-STP-V.V-1) Sub Division.	Rs. 313.62 Lakhs / Rs. 4.70 Lakhs
	IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/362/2025-26 Dt:30.05.2025	
3	Laying of tiles inside CCT, dredging pump, Total coliform analyzer and CMSS Software at 60 MLD Kengeri UWTP under JHA funds coming under AEE(WWM-STP-V.V-1) Sub Division.	Rs. 187.92 Lakhs / Rs. 2.82 Lakhs

For all the above works, Last date for receipt of tenders : **16.06.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Technical bids will be opened on: **17.06.2025 at 17.00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (WWM-West)

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/963/2025-26

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Director General of Police, Police Computer Wing,
7th Floor, M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru 560001.
E-mail: dgppcw@ksp.gov.in **Tel No.**22353871

No.16/STS/ADGP/PCW/2024-25 **Dated : 30.05.2025**

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The tender are invited in "Two Cover System" as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through e-Tender of Government of Karnataka website **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for Supply and Install of following items required to the Police Stations across the State.

Sl. No	Tender No.	Particulars	Qty	Last Date for submission of tender
1	KSP/2025-26/IND0303	Supply of Medium End Desktop	400	02/07/2025 by 17:30 hrs
2		Supply of Medium End Laptop	24	

Tender forms containing technical specifications, can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.Those who are willing to implement the project must necessarily be registered in e-Procurement portal. The training about e-Procurement is being provided at e-Procurement cell, e-Governance Department, M.S.Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560 001. The vendors may contact the helpline No : 91-8046010000 + 91-8068948777. For further details the vendors are requested to visit the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.Tender document will be available on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** from **02/06/2025.**

(1) Details : **Downloading of Tender Document & last date of tender submission: (from 02/06/2025 to 02/07/2025 before 17:30 hrs). (2) EMD amount : Rs.4,71,200/-(four lakh seventy one thousand two hundred only)** which shall be paid online through any of the following modes. (a) Credit Card (b) Debit Card, (c) National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT), (d) Detail of the payment mode as mentioned in the bid document (e-payment document available on website). **(3) Pre bid Meeting :** 10-06-2025 at 12.30 hrs. **(4) Technical bid** : 04-07-2025 at 11.00 hrs **(5) Commercial bid :** 10-07-2025 at 11.30 hrs.

Sd/-
Director General of Police
Police Computer Wing, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/960/NR/2025-26

INBRIEF

Jet fuel price slashed by 3%, commercial LPG rate by ₹24

The price of jet fuel, or aviation turbine fuel (ATF), was on Sunday slashed by 3% – the third straight monthly reduction on softening international benchmark prices. The ATF price was reduced by ₹2,414.25 per kilolitre (kl), or 2.82%, to ₹83,072.55 per kl in the national capital, according to state-owned fuel retailers. The fall in international benchmark oil and gas prices also led to a cut of ₹24 per 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder used in hotels and restaurants. Commercial LPG now costs ₹1,723.50 in the national capital and ₹1,647.50 in Mumbai. The ATF price cut follows a 4.4% (₹3,954.38 per kl) reduction on May 1 and a steep 6.15% (₹5,870.54 per kl) reduction effected from April 1.

Rajiv Memani takes over as CII president for 2025-26

Ernst & Young (EY) India's chairman and CEO Rajiv Memani has assumed office as the president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the 2025-26 term, the industry lobby said on Sunday. He takes over from Sanjiv Puri, chairman and managing director of ITC Ltd. Mr. Memani is also a member of the EY Global Executive Board, serving as the Chair of its Growth Markets Council. R. Mukundan, MD and CEO of Tata Chemicals Ltd, has taken over as president-designate and Suchitra K. Ella, co-founder and MD of Bharat Biotech International Ltd, as vice-president for 2025-26.

GST collections remain above ₹2 trillion in May

Gross collections had touched a record high of ₹2.37 lakh crore in April; growth is not uniform across States; gross revenues from imports higher than those from domestic transactions

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

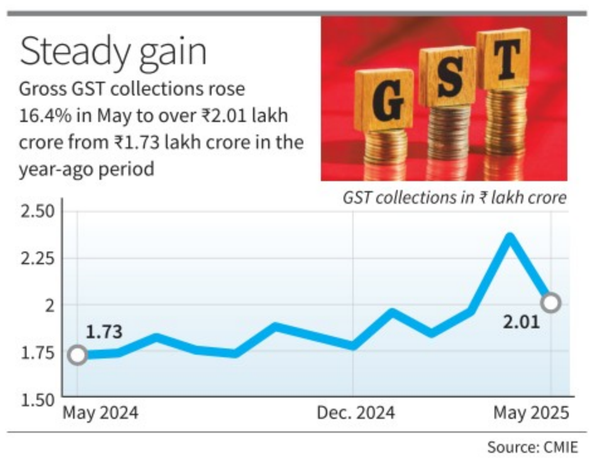
Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections remained above the ₹2 trillion mark for the second month in a row, rising 16.4% in May to over ₹2.01 lakh crore. GST collections had touched a record high of ₹2.37 lakh crore in April. In May 2024, the mop-up was ₹1,72,739 crore.

In May 2025, gross revenues from domestic transactions rose 13.7% to about ₹1.5 lakh crore, while GST revenue from imports grew 25.2% to ₹51,266 crore. Total gross GST revenues stood at ₹2,01,050 crore.

Gross Central GST revenues stood at ₹35,434 crore, State GST revenues at ₹43,902 crore and Integrated GST at about ₹1.09 lakh crore. Revenues from cess were at ₹12,879 crore.

Total refunds issued during the month dipped 4% to ₹27,210 crore. Net GST mop-up in May stood at ₹1.74 lakh crore, a 20.4% year-on-year growth.

Deloitte India Partner M.S. Mani said the wide variations in the growth of GST collections across States require a thorough analysis across the sectors that are important in each State.



Variations across States

While large States such as Maharashtra, West Bengal, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have reported collection increases of 17% to 25%, smaller States such as Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have shown increases of up to 6%. Some States such as Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan have shown median increases of 10%.

"Hence, the average growth across the country does not appear to be uniformly reflected across States possibly due to sectoral or seasonal factors which require a deeper data-based analysis," Mr. Mani said.

Price Waterhouse & Co LLP Partner Pratik Jain said 16% growth in GST collections in the month shows a renewed upward momentum after a few months of growth in the range of 11% to 12%.

"If the growth continues in this range for the next couple of months, it might provide the cushion for the government to look at rate rationalisation on which a lot of work has already been done," Mr. Jain said.

Net GST mop-up in May stood at ₹1.74 lakh crore, which is a 20.4% growth year-on-year

EY India Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said looking ahead, "we might see similar GST collection numbers with slight increases in June because of ongoing geopolitical tensions across the globe".

'Import-driven growth'

Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP Partner Vivek Jalan said with an approximate 10% growth in domestic GST revenues and 73% growth in import GST revenues, it is very clear that this month's growth in GST revenue is import-driven rather than domestic consumption-driven.

"This coupled with the fact that exports refunds are not growing correspondingly, reflect the fact that import growth far exceeds export growth," Mr. Jalan added.

India and European Union set to conduct joint naval exercise

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The exercises are aimed at enhancing the interoperability between the two sides, said a release

The Indian Navy and the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) will hold a joint exercise at sea soon.

The exercise will see the participation of *ESPS Reina Sofia* and *ITS Antonio Marceglia* from EUNAVFOR, as well as ships and aircraft from the Indian Navy. The complex tactical exercises are aimed at enhancing the interoperability between the two sides and enabling seamless operations when deployed for combating non-traditional threats such as piracy and smuggling in the Indian Ocean Region, according to a release.

In the run-up to the exercise, *ESPS Reina Sofia*, commanded by Commander Salvador Moreno Regil of the Spanish Navy, and *ITS Antonio Marceglia*, commanded by Cdr Alberto Bartolomeo of the Italian Navy, were in Mumbai from May 26 to June 1 on a port visit. "The visit is significant as it is their first such visit to India under the aegis of the European Union," the release said.

The development was a follow-up to the discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Union President Ursula von der Leyen, highlighting their shared commitment towards international peace and security.

The EUNAVFOR side led by Rear Admiral Davide Da Pozzo, Force Commander, Op Atalanta, interacted with Rear Admiral Vidyadhar Harke, Chief Staff Officer (Operations), Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy, at the Western Naval Command headquarters, and held discussions on furthering maritime cooperation between the two sides.

Boosting cooperation

Both the naval forces also took part in some harbour engagements. "Both sides agreed on the need for extended cooperation in the military domain, and the meeting was a stepping stone for expanding avenues of cooperation between the Indian Navy and EUNAVFOR," the release said.

Centre nudges Jharkhand, Bihar to act against unrecognised schools

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The Union Education Ministry has urged Jharkhand and Bihar to tackle the issue of unrecognised schools "at the earliest".

The Ministry flagged the issue of high number of unrecognised schools operating in these States during the meetings held in March and April of the Project Approval Board (PAB), which discussed the Annual Work Plan and Budget 2025-26 for the Samagra Shiksha scheme.

The meetings were held under the chairmanship of Sanjay Kumar, Secretary (School Education and Literacy).

An unrecognised school is a private institution run without appropriate licence from the government authority. According to the minutes of the meetings, as per the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+), Jharkhand has the highest number of unrecognised schools in the country – 5,879 schools with 8,37,897 enrolled students and 46,421 teachers. There are 4,915 unrecognised schools in Bihar with 7,75,704 students and 42,377 teachers.

According to UDISE+, Jharkhand has 5,879 unrecognised schools, the highest in the country, and Bihar has 4,915. GETTY IMAGES

The Ministry pointed out to the States that Section 19 of the Right to Education (RTE) Act stipulates that those schools established before the commencement of the Act (in 2009) and not fulfilling the norms shall take steps to fulfil the norms within three years from the date of commencement of the Act.

RTE norms

The RTE norms mandate that the schools have appropriate school infrastructure and maintenance, a fixed teacher-student ratio, qualified teachers, 25% seats in Class 1 of private schools reserved for economically disadvantaged children, and recognition by government authorities.

The RTE Act also mandates that if such schools fail to fulfil the norms, the recognition shall be withdrawn and the school shall cease to function.

The Education Ministry urged Jharkhand and Bihar to issue suitable instructions to the authorities concerned "to recognise these unrecognised schools or to take appropriate action as deemed fit at the earliest".

The RTE Act states that any person who continues to run a school after the recognition is withdrawn shall be liable to a fine up to ₹1 lakh, and in case of continuing contraventions, to a fine of ₹10,000 for each day during which contravention continues.

Air India looking to replace aircraft maintenance pact with Turkish firm

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India is exploring alternatives to replace Turkiye-based aircraft maintenance provider, Turkish Technic, following boycott calls sparked by Ankara's support for Pakistan during India's recent military conflict with the neighbouring country.

"We are cognisant of the [public] opinion. As we can find alternatives, we will try to direct aircraft there. It's not an overnight or easy solution," Air India CEO Campbell Wilson told *The Hindu* in response to a question on whether the airline would revisit its pact with Turkish Technic.

Since its privatisation, Air India has been sending its Boeing 777 legacy aircraft as well as the aircraft it has leased from Delta Airlines and Etihad Airways to Turkiye for maintenance operations.

Campbell Wilson

The airline is already grappling with a delay in the retrofit of its legacy narrow-body and wide-body aircraft.

Delay in retrofit

The complete retrofit or refurnishing of the airline's 13 legacy Boeing 777 aircraft also stands postponed. Instead, these aircraft are set to undergo a limited "heavy refresh" next year, which involves new carpets and seat covers.

"We have got a number of wide-body aircraft that require maintenance, including the refit. There isn't the capacity in India to do that for wide-body aircraft, and we have had to farm aircraft out to AIESL (Air India Engineering Services Limited, a government-owned provider of MRO or maintenance, repair and overhaul services). Obviously, they can't do all of it. We have sent some [wide-body aircraft] to Abu Dhabi, some to Singapore, and indeed some to Turkiye," Mr. Wilson explained.

Air India has also sought a subsidy of $600 million from the Indian government for every year Pakistan's airspace remains shut for Indian aircraft, forcing the airline to re-route its flights to Europe and North America, and take a fuel stop in Vienna for flights to Toronto, Washington D.C., and Chicago, resulting in up to three hours of additional flight duration on some routes.

"At the time, that was our assessment of what the cost would be," Mr. Wilson said in response to a question. The demand was made after the government asked airlines to share their assessment of the impact of the airspace closure.

Capacity issues

Some of Air India's flights are also grappling with an adverse impact on passenger and cargo capacity.

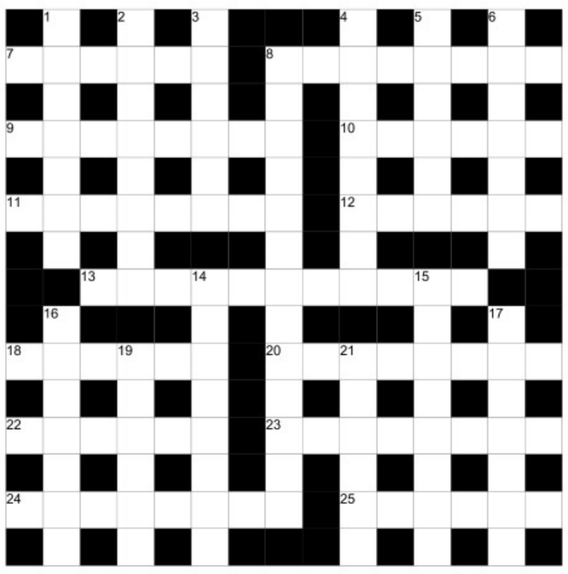
"In order to operate non-stop with a longer flight route, we can't fill all of the seats or all of the cargo capacity," Mr. Wilson said. As many as 20-30 seats have had to be flown without passengers on some flights. "We are getting better at optimising the flight route and mitigate the impact on our customers, operations and finances," Mr. Wilson said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14500

(set by Pixie Dust)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Very sorted, almost transformed constituency (6)
8 Claiming to be very tardy, Duke kept to himself (8)
9 Reverend's kick and die game? (8)
10 Is this vegetable ruining pitas too? (6)
11 Careers involving revolutionary mentors (8)
12 Passionate and resolute, David endured numerous tribulations initially (6)
13 Cleric's note about engineering branch (11)
18 Delicate chapped feet bled (6)
20 Brilliant story book, engrossing and delightful to begin with (8)
22 Conjuror Rimuru smuggles reflecting glass (6)
23 How is Red an alien? (8)
24 Exploit serf repeatedly to get to intermediaries? (8)
25 Gathered pennies for bouquets (6)

Down

1 Pass Leon, amazing army officer (7)
2 Without bit of fuss, vicar left out standing (8)
3 Elastic black panels regularly checked for seepage (6)
4 Briefly submissive Pixie Dust moves behind in protest (8)
5 Tormented bishop marked time, killed wife (6)
6 Crudest in Yorkshire displaying fortune (7)
8 I will endlessly utilise allotments without tendering basic clarifications (13)
14 He cries pathetically about first show of ripe fruits (8)
15 Examine criminal advocate! (8)
16 Charged particle indeed! (7)
17 Leaves in wastelands (7)
19 Sequestered base around town, left of river Jhelum (6)
21 Cool city in the bay area, check out! (6)

SUDOKU

7						2	9	
	1		9					
			6	5	3		7	
		7					3	9
			8		7			
8	6					4		
	5		1	3	9			
					6		1	
	4	1						3

No.SS6538 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	U	M	A	C	■	S	A	U
C	■	E	■	R	■	O	■	N
R	E	S	P	O	N	D	■	E
E	■	S	■	O	■	A	■	Q
W	H	I	S	K	Y	■	M	U
U	■	E	■	S	■	C	■	I
P	A	U	L	■	M	O	R	P
■	■	R	■	A	■	M	■	P
F	O	S	S	I	L	F	U	E
A	■	■	■	R	■	O	■	D
R	E	D	A	L	E	R	T	■
R	■	I	■	O	■	T	■	N
A	C	O	U	C	H	I	■	E
G	■	D	■	K	■	N	■	A
O	V	E	R	S	I	G	H	T

N	T	E	R	E	D	■	■	■
N	■	H	■	A	■	■	■	■
E	V	A	S	I	O	N	■	■
Q	■	N	■	T	■	A	■	■
M	U	S	K	R	A	T	S	■
P	■	Y	■	■	■	T	■	■
H	O	L	O	G	Y	■	■	■
P	■	U	■	R	■	■	■	■
U	E	L	■	J	O	H	N	■
D	■	L	■	R	■	O	■	■
E	R	T	■	T	Y	C	O	O
N	■	C	■	T	■	S	■	■
E	X	H	A	U	S	T	■	■
A	■	E	■	N	■	O	■	■
E	N	D	U	P	■	■	■	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	3	4	9	6	5	8	7
8	4	6	7	3	5	2	1	9
5	7	9	1	2	8	3	6	4
1	9	4	5	6	3	8	7	2
6	5	8	2	7	4	1	9	3
7	3	2	9	8	1	6	4	5
4	2	1	8	5	9	7	3	6
9	6	7	3	1	2	4	5	8
3	8	5	6	4	7	9	2	1

FAITH

Pride leads to disaster

Words spoken with pride lead to disaster, said P.T. Seshadri in a discourse. There is a story in the Shanti Parva of Mahabharata, which talks about a huge tree in the Himalayas. The tree had many branches, and animals and human beings sheltered beneath it. Birds nested in it. One day sage Narada came by and was astounded by what he saw. He said to the tree, "I have never seen a tree as tall and large as you. You have withstood powerful winds, with all your branches intact. Is Vayu your friend? You are strong. It is pleasant to stand beneath your spreading branches. I wonder if this place where you stand is svarga." The tree was bursting with pride. Narada's words went to its head. The tree replied, "Vayu is not my friend. Vayu does not have even a fraction of my strength. I know how to protect myself. Vayu is frightened of me." Narada told the tree that its arrogance would lead to trouble. He then told Vayu what had transpired.

Vayu came down and spoke to the tree, "I had a soft spot for you, and spared you. Mend your ways. Or else I will punish you." The tree remained unremorseful. Vayu then said he would come back the next day and teach the tree a lesson. That night the tree felt sorry for its arrogant words, but it could not conquer its pride. It could not bear the humiliation of Vayu breaking its branches. So it broke all its branches and shed all its leaves. The next day Vayu arrived and found the bare tree, with no foliage. He said to the tree, "Look at your pathetic appearance. Till the end you were unrepentant. You were even prepared to be shorn of all your leaves, so that I couldn't punish you. You are an example of the consequences of pride."

MONEYWISE

ASKUS

Vaishali R. Venkat

Q I am a retiree and started a Post Office PPF account in November 2020. I have ₹3 lakh in the account and am badly in need of money for medical emergency. Can I close my account and get back the money now?
RAJA THILAGAR

A We are sorry to hear about your situation. Public Provident Fund (PPF) account comes with a lock-in period of 15 years, i.e. account can be closed only after the completion of 15 years under normal circumstances. It's not advisable to open a PPF account at the fag end of your career. In the Post Office PPF account, a subscriber can withdraw only after the completion of five financial years excluding the account opening. In your case, you have opened in November 2020 (FY20-21), withdrawal can be made only during FY2026-27, i.e. after completion of March 31, 2026. Further, only 50% of the balance credit at the end of the fourth preceding year could be withdrawn.
Premature closure is allowed only after the completion of the fifth calendar year from the end of the year in which the account was opened. The closure is subject to conditions such as life-threatening disease of account holder, spouse or dependent children; higher education of account holder or dependent children. It is also allowed when there is a change in the resident status of an account holder (i.e., he/she became NRI). However, 1% interest shall be deducted for the same.
Though you have a medical emergency, it is likely impossible to close your PPF account prematurely or withdraw your corpus. However, a post office official said, "If you have valid medical certificates and that the medical condition (of self or any of the family member) is life-threatening, you can place a request to the Divisional Head of your branch through your branch head and try explaining your crisis. However, it's not a guarantee that your account could be closed prematurely."

Q I passed out from college recently and am working in a Central government PSU. My father is into a small business and I have no liabilities. How should I start investing for long-term? Also advise me on health insurance for my family.
ANSH GUPTA

A You are considerably young and have enough time for growth prospects, be it in direct equity investing or through mutual funds. First, you can start investing in mutual funds (MFs). Choose any Index fund (passive) that tracks Nifty 50 or Sensex 30, which are comparatively (not completely) safer. However, choose only direct schemes but not regular schemes that are offered by distributors or brokers. When compared with regular schemes, the expense ratio for direct schemes is lower. Either you can start a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) or you can invest in a lumpsum plan. SIP is a monthly commitment whereas a lumpsum is a one-time investment plan. You can start investing a minimum of ₹500 per month (some MF schemes offer lower amount plans also) in any passive fund or as a one-time lumpsum, if you get any incentive or bonus. Since you have no liability, you can start a SIP of ₹6,000 per month. Keep track of the performance of SIP investment for two to three years. Once you have understood how market movements impact your mutual fund performance, you can consider investing in other active mutual funds and also start investing in equity markets, that is stocks.
For a decent health insurance coverage for you and your family, take a family floater policy with a sum insured (SI) of up to ₹10 lakh at an affordable premium. Important criteria to consider in the policy are list of network hospitals for cashless treatment, higher claim settlement ratio of insurance companies, cap on room rents, sub-limits on treatments, waiting periods for pre-existing diseases, pre- and post-hospitalisation coverage period, no-claim bonus benefits, inclusion of annual health check-up facility, co-payment clauses, coverage for daycare procedures and life-long renewability.
(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified wealth manager)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

How do you de-risk from outliving your savings?

With life expectancy expected to cross 85 by end of this century, rising healthcare costs and inflation silently eroding the value of money year after year, retirement planning becomes crucial

TWILIGHT ZONE

Pavit Laul

In today's world a nagging question for many Indians is, Will I have enough money to last through retirement?

It's a valid worry. Life expectancy, already about 72.5 years, is expected to cross 85 by the end of this century. At the same time, healthcare costs are rising. And inflation? That's silently eroding the value of our money year after year. A recent survey showed nearly 4 out of 10 working Indians fear they might outlive their savings. So, what can you do?

> Starting to invest early helps save more and investments get time to grow; with right planning, retirement can be the most rewarding chapter in one's life

> Unit Linked Pension Plans ensure at least 40% of corpus is set aside to give you guaranteed return for life, thus securing your retirement

Long retirement years
If you retire at 60 and live till 85-90, retirement can easily last 25-30 years. That's almost equal to your working life. Let's say you plan to spend ₹50,000 a month in retirement or ₹6 lakh a year. Over 30 years it's ₹1.8 crore without accounting for inflation.

Now add inflation at, say, 6%. That ₹50,000 monthly budget could become ₹1.6 lakh in 20 years. And that's why you need more than a "big enough" retirement corpus. You need a strategy that helps your income keep up with rising costs. Let's look at some key risks which can erode your wealth.

Think ₹1 crore is enough? At 6% inflation, the real value of that corpus halves in 12 years. To counter the effects of inflation, you should keep a portion of savings invested in inflation-beating assets that invest in equity market. Unit-Linked Pension Plans are specifically designed to help you build a retirement corpus which helps generate guaranteed income after retirement.

These plans work best if you start investing early. A ULIP Pension Plan has two phases: Accumulation phase and payout phase. During working years, you accumulate a big corpus by investing regularly and earning market-linked returns on the investments. And when you retire, you can withdraw a certain portion (up to 60%) of corpus tax-free and also get regular guaranteed income from balance amount.

A great feature is you can invest in a mix of equity and debt funds and switch between them. So you can stay equity-heavy in accumulation phase for faster growth and when nearing retirement you can remain debt-heavy to preserve capital.

Medical inflation
Healthcare costs in India are rising by 12-14% annually. This problem has a simple solution: health insurance. A comprehensive health insurance policy with lifetime renewability can ensure you won't have to dip into savings for any medical emergency. You must also explore topping up your insurance plan.

Longevity risk
If you've planned finances to last till 80 but live till 90, you could run out of money. The guaranteed regular income from Pension ULIPs on maturity ensures you get income for life irrespective of age.

Withdrawals Pulling out big chunks for lifestyle expenses or emergencies early in retirement can put strain on future needs. Unit Linked Pension Plans ensure at least 40% of corpus is set aside to give you guaranteed return for life, thus securing your retirement.

Thus, Pension ULIPs help you to counter these risks by providing the flexibility of partial withdrawals allowed for specific life events while the discipline of ensuring 40% of corpus is always set aside to give you guaranteed returns for life ensures you never run out of money. The rest can be withdrawn tax-free under Section 10 (10A) and Clause 23AAB of Income Tax Act, 1961

You can also consider National Pension Scheme (NPS), a government-backed plan which allows up to 75% of contributions to be invested in market-linked instruments with balance in safer debt options. Once you hit 60, at least 40% of the corpus goes into an annuity, giving a steady, guaranteed income for life.

A checklist
Figure out how much monthly income you need to live a comfortable life post retirement. Then use the 4% rule to arrive at the corpus size. For example, if you need ₹50,000 every month, then you need a corpus of ₹1.5 crore. But if you are expecting to retire after a decade or two, you need to adjust this number for inflation.

Rupee cost averaging
Markets go up and down. But over time, consistent investing pays off. By consistently investing in unit linked pension plans you ensure you earn higher number of units when markets fall and lower number of units when markets rise. This helps grow your corpus irrespective of market conditions. That's rupee cost averaging. So start early, stay consistent and let compounding do its magic.

Investing early Starting to invest early helps save more and investments get time to grow. With right planning, retirement can be one of the most rewarding chapters of your life.

(The writer is head, Investments, Policybazaar.com)

Gold, silver consolidate

PRECIOUSMETALS

News flow pertaining to trade talks and tariff postponement by the U.S. on European Union and China played a key role in influencing sentiment towards precious metals in the month of May

B. Krishnakumar

Price action in precious metals was rangebound in May. After initial weakness in first half of the month, precious metal prices staged recovery in the latter half. News flow pertaining to trade talks and tariff postponement by the U.S. on European Union and China played a key role in influencing sentiment towards precious metals.

As a result, Comex gold closed almost unchanged at $3,315.4 at May end, a 0.1% fall. Performance of Comex silver was no different. Silver prices edged up marginally by 0.6% to settle at $33.03 at the end of May.

Mirroring the trend in global markets, MCX Gold price posted a nominal 0.5% gain to settle at ₹95,875 per 10-gram at the end of May. MCX silver posted tad better performance, recording a 1.1% gain to settle at ₹97,015 per kilogram.

Volatile price action
As anticipated last month, the price of Comex gold ruled weak and also dropped to the then-mentioned target zone of $3,140-$3,150. After dropping to a low of $3,123 on May 15, gold price staged a recovery thereafter. Comex gold price is likely to stay rangebound in the $3,120-$3,450 zone. Only a breakout from this zone would impart momentum to the price action. Until then, expect volatile price action within the $3,120-$3,450 zone.

The Comex silver price slid to a low of $31.78 on May 15 and recovered. The recent rangebound price action witnessed in Comex silver may persist in the short-term. Only a breakout from the current range of $30.5-$34.5 would set the tone for the next directional move in silver. Expect the price to oscillate viciously within the range, until the range breakout.

As anticipated, the MCX gold price stayed weak last month, but the price did not drop to the target zone mentioned earlier. After easing to a low of ₹90,890, the price recovered in the past couple of weeks. The MCX gold price is likely to be confined to the ₹95,000-₹97,000 range. A breakout from this range could trigger the next big move in gold. Until then, a range bound environment is likely.

MCX silver price too is likely to sustain within the present price range of ₹96,500-₹98,500 zone. Only a move beyond this range would trigger momentum to the price action. Until the breakout happens, silver price is likely to move around within the boundaries of the above range.

To conclude, precious metal prices are in a consolidation phase and next trending move will happen only if price breaks out from the range.

(The author is a Chennai based analyst/trader. The views and opinion featured in this column is based on the analysis of short-term price movement in gold and silver futures at COMEX & Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice.)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.75	7.00	7.50	7.25
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.05	7.90	7.75	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.75	5.00	6.25	6.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.20	7.50	8.05	8.20
NorthEast Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.00	8.75	8.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.60	7.90	8.40	8.60
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.05	7.90	7.20	7.20
Unity Small Finance Bank	8.60	7.25	8.15	8.15
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.25	6.25	8.25	7.75
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	6.85	6.50	6.75	6.70
Bandhan Bank	7.75	7.75	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.25	7.25	7.00	6.25
CSB Bank	7.40	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.05	7.05	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	7.75	7.10	7.25	7.25
Federal Bank	7.15	6.75	6.90	6.90
HDFC Bank	6.85	6.50	6.70	6.65
ICICI Bank	6.85	6.50	6.75	6.75
IDFC FIRST Bank	7.15	6.25	6.25	6.00
IndusInd Bank	7.75	7.50	7.25	7.10
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.30	7.00	6.75	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.25	7.00	7.00	7.00
Karnataka Bank	7.15	7.00	6.50	6.50
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.95	6.50	6.75	6.20
RBL Bank	7.75	7.50	7.50	7.10
SBM Bank India	7.75	7.40	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	6.95	6.80	6.50	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.30	7.25	6.50	6.50
YES Bank	7.50	7.00	7.50	7.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.10	6.80	7.00	6.80
Bank of India	7.05	7.05	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.25	6.75	6.50	6.50
Canara Bank	7.00	6.85	7.00	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.50	6.85	6.75	6.75
Indian Bank	7.15	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.10	6.90	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.00	6.70	6.75	6.25
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.25	6.30	6.00	6.50
State Bank of India	6.85	6.50	6.55	6.30
Union Bank of India	7.15	6.75	6.70	6.50

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.00-9.20	8.00-9.20	8.00-9.20
Bank of Baroda	8.00-9.65	8.00-9.65	8.00-9.90
Punjab National Bank	8.05-9.85	8.00-9.75	8.00-9.75
Bank of India	7.85-10.35	7.85-10.35	7.85-10.65
Canara Bank	8.00-10.75	7.95-10.75	7.90-10.65
UCO Bank*	7.90-9.50	7.90-9.50	7.90-9.50
Bank of Maharashtra	7.85-10.65	7.85-10.65	7.85-10.65
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.05-11.25	8.05-11.25	8.05-11.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.90-10.50	7.90-10.50	7.90-10.50
Indian Bank	7.90-9.90	7.90-9.90	7.90-9.90
Central Bank of India	7.85-9.45	7.85-9.45	7.85-9.45
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.65 #	8.65 #	8.65 #
ICICI Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Axis Bank	8.75-12.80	8.75-12.80	8.75-9.65
HSBC Bank	8.25 #	8.25 #	8.25 #
South Indian Bank	8.30-10.60	8.30-10.60	8.30-10.60
Karur Vysya Bank	8.45-11.40	8.45-11.40	8.45-11.40
Karnataka Bank	8.78-11.02	8.78-11.02	8.78-9.43
Federal Bank	8.55 #	8.55 #	8.55 #
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.50-9.75	8.50-9.75	8.50-9.75
Bandhan Bank	8.66-15.00	8.66-12.83	8.66-12.83
RBL Bank	9.00 #	9.00 #	9.00 #
CSB Bank	10.11-11.84	10.11-11.84	10.11-11.84
HDFC Bank Ltd.	8.45 #	8.45 #	8.45 #
City Union Bank	10.05-15.45	9.85-15.45	9.85-13.75
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.00 #	8.00 #	8.00 #
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.99 #	7.99 #	7.99 #
Tata Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-14.50	8.50-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
SMFG India Home Finance	10.00 #	10.00 #	10.00 #
Aditya Birla Capital	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
ICICI Home Finance	9.30 #	9.30 #	9.30 #

***Additional concession of 0.05% & 0.10% for women borrowers & takeover loans, respectively**
#Onwards Rates as on May 28 Source:Paisabazaar.com

YANGON

Myanmar junta extends ceasefire again for a month till June 30

AP

Myanmar's junta has extended a post-earthquake truce, after the expiry of a previous humanitarian ceasefire it was accused of flouting with a continued campaign of air strikes. The junta said on Saturday that there would be an extension of the armistice — which expired on May 31 — until June 30. AFP

BEIJING

Hegseth touting Cold War attitude by calling China a threat: Beijing

AFP

China on Sunday denounced U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth for calling the Asian country a threat, accusing him of touting a Cold War mentality. The Foreign Ministry said Mr. Hegseth vilified Beijing with defamatory allegations the previous day at the Shangri-La Dialogue, a global security conference. AP

WARSAW

Poles cast ballots in a pivotal presidential run-off elections

REUTERS

Poles were voting in a decisive presidential run-off that could set the course for the nation's political future and its relations with the European Union. The contest pits Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, a liberal pro-EU figure, against Karol Nawrocki, a conservative historian backed by the right-wing Law and Justice party. AP

LONDON

'More than 1,100 migrants crossed British Channel on Saturday'

AP

Some 1,194 migrants arrived in the U.K. after crossing the Channel in small boats on Saturday, a record for this year according to official data. It brings the overall number of migrant crossings this year to 14,808, an unprecedented figure despite several measures in place by the French and U.K. governments to curb the crossings. AFP

At least 31 killed in Israeli strike near Gaza aid point

Separate strike near an aid distribution point in central Gaza injures 31; both sites were run by U.S.-based Gaza Humanitarian Foundation; volunteer advises people not visit these sites

Reuters
CAIRO/GAZA

An Israeli attack near an aid distribution point run by a private U.S.-based group killed at least 31 people in Gaza on Sunday, local health authorities said, as Hamas and Israel exchanged blame over a faltering effort to secure a ceasefire.

The strike in Rafah in the south of the besieged enclave was the latest in a series of incidents underscoring the volatile security situation that has complicated aid delivery to Gaza Strip, following the easing of an almost three-month Israeli blockade last month.

Dire straits: Displaced Palestinians return from a food distribution centre in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday. AFP

"There are martyrs and injuries. Many injuries. It is a tragic situation in this place. I advise them that nobody goes to aid delivery points. Enough," paramedic Abu Tareq said at Nasser Hospital in nearby Khan Younis city.

The Palestinian Red Crescent, affiliated with the international Red Cross, said its medical teams had recovered bodies of 23 Palestinians and treated another 23 injured near an aid collection site in Rafah. The U.S.-based Gaza Humanitarian Foundation operates the aid distribution sites in Rafah.

Another GHF site

The Red Crescent also reported that 14 more Palestinians were injured near a separate site in central Gaza. GHF also operates the aid distribution site in central Gaza.

Ukraine claims to have destroyed 41 aircraft; Russian strikes kill 12 soldiers

Associated Press
KYIV

A Ukrainian drone attack has destroyed more than 40 Russian planes deep in Russia's territory, a Ukrainian security official said on Sunday, while Russia pounded Ukraine with missiles and drones a day before the two sides meet for a new round of direct talks in Istanbul.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose operational details, said the attack took over a year and a half to execute and was personally supervised by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The operation saw drones transported in containers carried by trucks deep into Russian territory, he said. The drones reportedly hit 41 bombers stationed at several airfields on Sunday afternoon, including the Belaya air base in Russia's Irkutsk region, more than 4,000 km from Ukraine. It is the first time that a Ukrainian drone has been seen in the region, local Gov. Igor Kobzev said.

Busy night: A freight train that derailed after the overnight collapse of a railway bridge following blasts in Kursk in Russia. AFP

Russia's Defence Ministry confirmed the attacks, which spanned five airfields. The FPV drones damaged aircraft and sparked fires on air bases in Irkutsk as well as Russia's northern Murmansk, it said, while strikes were repelled in the Amur region in Russia's Far East and in the western regions of Ivanovo and Ryazan.

The attack came the same day as Mr. Zelenskyy said Ukraine will send a delegation to Istanbul for a new round of direct peace talks with Russia on Monday.

Russia on Sunday launched the biggest number of drones – 472 – on Ukraine since the full-scale invasion in February 2022, Ukraine's air force said. Russian forces also launched seven missiles. Earlier on Sunday, Ukraine's Army said at least 12 Ukrainian service members were killed and more than 60 were injured in a Russian missile strike on an Army training unit.

Iran vows retaliation if Europeans 'exploit' UN nuclear report

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran on Sunday warned it would retaliate if European powers that have threatened to reimpose nuclear sanctions "exploit" a UN report showing Tehran has stepped up production of highly enriched uranium.

The report by the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran had sharply increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to up to 60%, close to the roughly 90% level needed for atomic weapons.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said he told IAEA chief Rafael Grossi in a phone call that "Iran will respond to any inappropriate action by the European parties" to the 2015 agreement, referring to Britain, France and Germany. Mr. Araghchi urged Mr. Grossi in their Saturday call to stop "parties from exploiting" the nuclear watchdog report.

The report said Iran increased its stockpile of enriched uranium to the 90% level needed for atomic weapons

Bangladesh Supreme Court allows Jamaat-e-Islami to contest elections

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Sunday ordered the Election Commission to restore the rightwing Jamaat-e-Islami's party registration, nearly eight months after the interim government lifted a ban on it, clearing the way for its participation in future elections.

Scale symbol

Court officials said the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, led by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed, directed the commission to restore the party's registration. The apex court, at the same time, said it was up to the Election Commission (EC) to decide if Jamaat could contest polls using its traditional "scale" symbol.

The verdict comes a week after a top JeI leader and death row convict, ATM Azharul Islam, was freed by the same apex court. AFP

The EC scrapped the registration of Jamaat, which was opposed to Bangladesh's 1971 independence from Pakistan, in December 2018 in line with a High Court ruling.

In 2013, the Bangladesh Supreme Court cancelled the registration of the Jamaat-e-Islami, ruling that the party is unfit to contest national elections.

Hasina's ban

Former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government slapped a total ban on the party days ahead of her ouster on August 5, 2024 in a violent mass movement led by a platform called Students against Discrimination (SAD). Jaamaat and several other parties had backed the SAD.

After Sheikh Hasina's ouster, the party appealed for a review of the 2013 court order banning it.

Bangladesh issues banknotes without Mujib's portrait

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh on Sunday issued new banknotes to replace designs featuring its founding president, the father of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina .

The South Asian nation of some 170 million people has been run by a caretaker government since Ms. Hasina fled – whose trial opened on Sunday on charges of trying to crush the uprising against her government in August 2024.

Until now, all notes featured the portrait of her father, the late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who led Bangladesh during its independence from Pakistan in 1971 until soldiers assassinated him and most of his family in a 1975 coup.

Natural landscapes

"Under the new series and design, the notes will not feature any human portraits, but will instead showcase natural landscapes and traditional landmarks," Bangladesh Bank spokesman said.

Among the designs in the Muslim-majority nation are images of Hindu and Buddhist temples, as well as historical palaces.

Sport

Jaguars ride high on Reeth, Anirban's exploits

UTT

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

The Maharashtra derby lived up to its billing and offered the Ultimate Table Tennis Season 6 its first nail-biter as PBG Pune Jaguars – a rebranded team – stunned the fancied U Mumba TT to mark a sensational debut on Sunday.

In the hunt

Despite captain Alvaro Robles underperforming in the opening singles tie against an on-song Lilian Bardet, Dena Meshref kept the Jaguars in the hunt by stretching Bernadette Szocs.

The Indian duo of Anirban Ghosh and T. Reeth Rishya then punched above their weight in the last two singles outings to spark off celebrations in the Jaguars camp.

Swing factor: Reeth made it a memorable debut for Jaguars. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ghosh – despite wasting four match points in the second game – won the decider against Akash Pal to stretch the tie into the deciding match, with the teams locked at six games apiece.

Reeth then used all her experience to make it a forgettable UTT debut for Swastika Ghosh by maintaining a clean slate.

Flummoxed

Reeth's forehand reverse-pendulum serve – with side-spin and top-spin variations – left Swastika flummoxed.

Reeth won service points at 9-9 in the first game and on the golden point of the second to seal the tie for the Pune outfit.

Earlier in the evening, U Mumba kept itself afloat with stunning comebacks. Szocs saved three match points before edging past the left-handed Dina in the second game.

Akash then made a sensational comeback against Anirban, thanks to a spectacular forehand down-the-line block at 6-10 that started a five-point streak.

Point of the day

The point of the day was played in the first match. At 8-3 in the second game, Bardet won an 18-shot rally against Robles to start off a series of surprising results.

The result:

U Mumba TT lost to PBG Pune Jaguars 6-9 (Lilian Bardet bt Alvaro Robles 11-1, 11-4, 8-11; Bernadette Szocs bt Dina Meshref 5-11, 11-10, 11-9; Szocs & Akash Pal lost to Dina & Anirban Ghosh 11-7, 7-11, 10-11; Akash lost to Anirban 6-11, 11-10, 8-11; Swastika Ghosh lost to T. Reeth Rishya 9-11, 10-11, 6-11).

Monday's fixtures:

Stanley's Chennai Lions vs Kolkata ThunderBlades (5 p.m.).

U Mumba TT vs Ahmedabad SG Pipers (7.30 p.m.).

Gukesh loses to Wei in tie-break; Arjun produces an upset

NORWAY CHESS

Press Trust of India
STAVANGER

Reigning World champion D. Gukesh's roller-coaster ride continued with the Indian suffering a defeat in an Armageddon tie-break as he slipped to tied-fifth place, while Arjun Erigaisi upset American world No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura to maintain his fourth position in Norway Chess.

Defending champion Magnus Carlsen continued to shine on Saturday, taking his points tally to 9.5 following his Armageddon tie-break victory against GM Fabiano Caruana with black pieces.

In the women's section, two-time World rapid champion, Koneru Humpy took the lead with 8.5 points following a tie-break win against China's Lei Tingjie.

Springing a surprise: Arjun stunned world No. 2 Nakamura to maintain his fourth position. NORWAY CHESS

The results (fifth round):

Open:

Fabiano Caruana (USA, 8) lost to Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 9.5) in Armageddon; Wei Yi (Chn, 5.5) bt D. Gukesh (5.5) in Armageddon; Arjun Erigaisi (6) bt Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 6.5) in Armageddon.

Women: Sara Khadem (Esp, 5) lost to R. Vaishali (6.5), Koneru Humpy (8.5) bt Lei Tingjie (Chn, 5) in Armageddon; Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 8) lost to Ju Wenjun (Chn, 7) in Armageddon.

MORALE BOOSTER

The wins in Chennai and Mumbai gave real confidence, says Bobat

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Winning those first few games away from home, in places like Chennai and Mumbai, gave real confidence for the boys. When we managed to figure out how to win at home, that gave the boys a lot of confidence. From that point onwards, we got on a bit of a roll — Mo Bobat, RCB Director of Cricket.

WORK ETHIC

Kohli is one of the most pristine greats of the game: Karthik

FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

Virat Kohli is one of the pristine greats of the game. I use the word pristine purely because of his work ethic. I think he'd be right up there with Kobe Bryant and Novak Djokovic. He works so hard on things that are not seen on the screen... that is what makes him such a pure, high-quality performer — Dinesh Karthik, RCB mentor

JOE'S DAY OUT

Root slams unbeaten century as England takes unassailable lead

AP

Joe Root's highest ODI score (166 not out) powered England to a three-wicket win and an unassailable 2-0 lead against the West Indies in Cardiff on Sunday. **The scores:** West Indies 308 in 47.4 overs (Carty 103, Hope 78, King 59, Rashid 4/63, Mahmood 3/37) lost to England 312/7 in 48.5 overs (Root 166 n.o., Joseph 4/31).

LATEST UPDATE

Gukesh registers first win against Carlsen in the classical format

NORWAY CHESS

World champion D. Gukesh secured a statement win in the sixth round of Norway Chess, stunning Magnus Carlsen in classical time control for the first time in his career. The result saw the former World champion bang the table in frustration. "99 times out of 100 times I would have lost this... just a lucky day," said Gukesh.

Shreyas special helps Punjab Kings down Mumbai Indians in epic chase, enter final

Wadhera plays the supporting role to perfection; Boult dropping the left-hander turns out to be a pivotal moment; new champion confirmed as PBKS to meet RCB on Tuesday

IPL-18

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

Shreyas Iyer (87 n.o., 41b, 5x4, 8x6) showcased big-match temperament to power Punjab Kings past Mumbai Indians by five wickets chasing 204 in the IPL Qualifier 2 here on Sunday.

Shreyas' sparkling essay knocked five-time champion MI out of the tournament, as PBKS set a date with Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the final.

The PBKS captain and Nehal Wadhera (48, 29b, 4x4, 2x6) put the side on the front foot with an 84-run fourth-wicket stand. The duo played out a few quiet overs, leading to required rate to rise to nearly 12 an over.

Shreyas then turned the tide in PBKS' favour by hitting fast bowler Reece Topley for three consecutive sixes in the 13th over.

MI, not short on fight, forced its way back by dismissing Wadhera and Shashank Singh in quick succession.

The chase, with PBKS needing 41 from four overs, fell on Shreyas' shoulders.

Captain fantastic: Shreyas' innings was studded with eight maximums and five fours. VIJAY SONEJI

The 30-year-old was up to the task, first smacking speedster Ashwani Kumar for a maximum, before guiding Trent Boult for two fours to the third-man fence.

A spot in the summit clash was guaranteed once Shreyas saw off Jasprit Bumrah, the lone remaining MI threat.

After being put in, Mumbai Indians overcame tricky conditions to post a challenging total. On a pitch left moist due to rain, Jonny Bairstow (38), Tilak Varma (44) and Suryakumar Yadav (44) did well to keep the score moving at a healthy pace.

Naman Dhir (37) came alive in the death to push MI past the 200-run mark.

Bairstow carried the attack to the bowlers, until he was undone by a slower delivery from V. Vyshak.

Suryakumar and Tilak put on a 72-run stand filled with exciting strokes. Suryakumar raised the roof by sweeping leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal for a six over fine-leg.

Tilak delighted with straight sixes when the ball was overpitched.

Chahal, who returned from a wrist injury, prised out Suryakumar with a full delivery. Soon after, fast bowler Kyle Jamieson dismissed Tilak with a clever cutter.

MI captain Hardik Pandya walked in to big cheers, but failed to deliver.

Hardik could not get it cleanly off the middle, and stuttered to a 13-ball 15.

Intermittent showers forced a delay in the start of the match.

Shreyas made the right decision to field first and then let his bat do the talking in the chase.

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS

Rohit Sharma c Vyshak b Stoinis 8 *(7b, 1x4)*, Jonny Bairstow c Inglis b Vyshak 38 *(24b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Tilak Varma c Priyansh b Jamieson 44 *(29b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Wadhera b Chahal 44 *(26b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Inglis b Omarzai 15 *(13b, 1x4)*, Naman Dhir c Stoinis b Omarzai 37 *(18b, 7x4)*, Raj Bawa (not out) 8 *(4b)*, Mitchell Santner (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-3, nb-2, w-4): 9; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 203.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-19 (Rohit, 2.2 overs), 2-70 (Bairstow, 6.6), 3-142 (Suryakumar, 13.5), 4-142 (Tilak, 14.1), 5-180 (Hardik, 17.6), 6-197 (Naman, 19.3).

KINGS BOWLING

Arshdeep 4-0-44-0, Jamieson 4-0-30-1, Stoinis 1-0-14-1, Omarzai 4-0-43-2, Vyshak 3-0-30-1, Chahal 4-0-39-1.

PUNJAB KINGS

Priyansh Arya c Hardik b Ashwani 20 *(10b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Prabhsimran Singh **(Impact Player for Chahal)** c Topley b Boult 6 *(9b, 1x4)*, Josh Inglis c Bairstow b Hardik 38 *(21b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Shreyas Iyer (not out) 87 *(41b, 5x4, 8x6)*, Nehal Wadhera c Santner b Ashwani 48 *(29b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Shashank Singh run out 2 *(3b)*, Marcus Stoinis (not out) 2 *(2b)*; Extras (nb-1, w-3): 4; Total (for five wkts. in 19 overs): 207.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Prabhsimran, 2.1), 2-55 (Priyansh, 5.1), 3-72 (Inglis, 7.5), 4-156 (Wadhera, 15.4), 5-169 (Shashank, 16.4).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Boult 4-0-38-1, Topley 3-0-40-0, Bumrah 4-0-40-0, Ashwani **(Impact Player for Rohit)** 4-0-55-2, Santner 2-0-15-0, Hardik 2-0-19-1.

Toss: PBKS; **PoM:** Shreyas.

PBKS won by five wickets with one over to spare.

Three tons mark Lions' strong reply

INDIA-A IN ENGLAND

Press Trust of India
CANTERBURY

Shardul Thakur and Nitish Kumar Reddy fighting for the lone seamer all-rounder's slot in the Test team were way below par against a dogged England Lions batting unit that ended the third day's play at 527 for seven with the opening four-day 'Test' against India-A meandering towards a tame draw here on Sunday.

Seamer Mukesh Kumar's (three for 75 in 21 overs) morning spell was the only highlight in an otherwise mediocre bowling effort from the visitor.

Shardul (1/90 in 21 overs) and Nitish (0/57 in 11 overs) bowled 32 overs between themselves with the former getting an extended spell. But not for once did it seem that they were in a position to trouble a stodgy Tom Haines (171) or a gutsy Dan Mousley (113).

Replying to India-A's mammoth first innings score of 557, England-A rode on fine batting efforts from overnight centurion Haines and Max Holden (101), who reached the three-figure mark during the opening session.

The scores: India-A 557 vs. England Lions 527/7 in 124 overs (Haines 171, Holden 101, Mousley 113, Mukesh 3/75).

Svitolina claws back from the brink to oust Paolini; Swiatek survives

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Triple-defending Roland Garros champion Iga Swiatek battled into the quarterfinals of the French Open on Sunday, overcoming a bruising first set loss to defeat former Wimbledon winner Elena Rybakina.

The four-time holder of the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen displayed great resilience to win 1-6, 6-3, 7-5 in in two hours and 29 minutes on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Swiatek will next face Elina Svitolina for a spot in the semifinal, after the Ukrainian earlier saved three match points to eliminate last year's runner-up and fourth seed Jasmine Paolini.

The 30-year-old 13th seed Svitolina roared back to upset the World No. 4 Paolini 4-6, 7-6(6), 6-1 in their last-16 tie.

Paolini, who prepared for her tilt at the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen by winning the Italian Open earlier in May, has now fallen to Svitolina in both Grand Slams so far this year.

On Court Philippe Chatrier, Svitolina forced a decider by outlasting her opponent in a topsy-turvy tie-break after Paolini passed up three match points in the second set, including one in the breaker.

Clutch show: Svitolina punished Paolini for not taking advantage of three match points in the second set. AFP

Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen secured a quarterfinal place with a hard-fought three-set victory over 19th-seeded Russian Liudmila Samsonova. The Chinese eighth seed extended her winning streak at Roland Garros to 10 matches, winning 7-6(5), 1-6, 6-3 on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka needed eight match points to wrap up a 7-5, 6-3 win over American Amanda Anisimova.

In the men's section, American 12th seed Tommy Paul eased into his second consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinal with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 win over Australia's Alexei Popyrin.

Later, reigning champion Carlos Alcaraz won a war of attrition with American 13th seed Ben Shelton to reach the quarterfinals.

The Spaniard emerged victorious 7-6(8), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 after over three hours of blistering serves and power-hitting.

THE RESULTS

Men: Fourth round: 12-Paul (USA) bt 25-Popyrin (Aus) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; 2-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 13-Shelton (USA) 7-6(8), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.
Third round: Griekspoor (Ned) bt Quinn (USA) 4-6, 6-1, 6-7(2), 6-1, 6-4; Norrie (GBr) bt Fearnley (GBr) 6-3, 7-6(1), 6-2; 6-Djokovic (Srb) bt Misolic (Aut) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.
Doubles: Third round: 2-Heliovaara (Fin) & Patten (GBr) bt Bopanna & Pavlasek (Cze) 6-2, 7-6(5); 9-Harrison (USA) & King (USA) bt Yuki & Galloway (USA) 6-4, 6-4.
Women: Fourth round: 13-Svitolina (Ukr) bt 4-Paolini (Ita) 4-6, 7-6(6), 6-1; 8-Zheng (Chn) bt 19-Samsonova (Rus) 7-6(5), 1-6, 6-3; 5-Swiatek (Pol) bt 12-Rybakina (Kaz) 1-6, 6-3, 7-5; 1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt 16-Anisimova (USA) 7-5, 6-3.

Monday's Picks

WOMEN
2-Gauff vs 20-Alexandrova
3-Pegula vs Boisson
6-Andreeva vs 17-Kasatkina
7-Keys vs Baptiste

MEN
1-Sinner vs 17-Rublev
3-Zverev vs Griekspoor
5-Draper vs Bublik
6-Djokovic vs Norrie

Piastri leads McLaren's one-two finish

FORMULA ONE

Reuters
BARCELONA

Formula One championship leader Oscar Piastri won the Spanish Grand Prix from pole position in a McLaren one-two on Sunday to forge 10 points clear of teammate Lando Norris in the title battle.

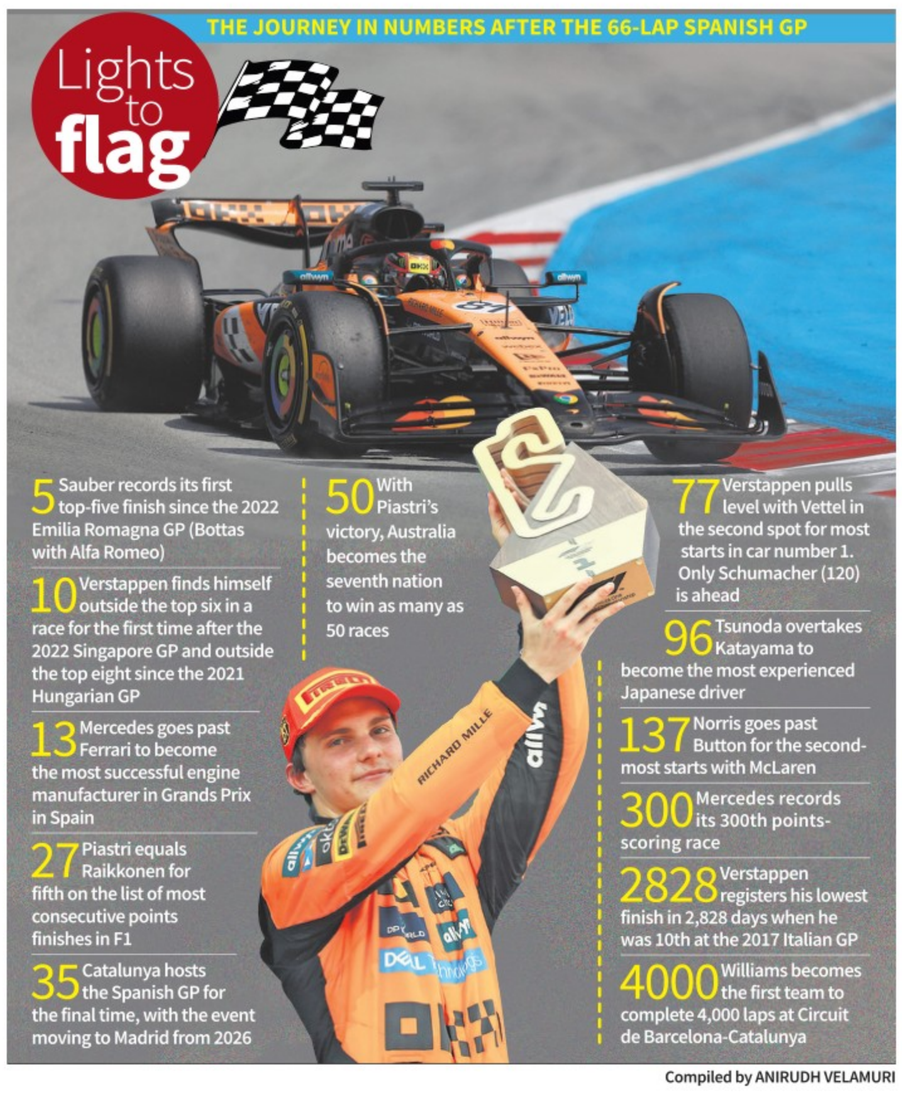
The Australian's win was his fifth in nine races this season and McLaren's seventh. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc completed the podium after passing Max Verstappen's Red Bull six laps from the end following a safety car period that triggered the main talking point of the afternoon, with the champion demoted from fifth to 10th.

Russell finished fourth after eventually being let through by Verstappen, who reluctantly did as his team told him.

The results: 1. Piastri (McLaren) 1h:32m:57.375s; 2. Norris (McLaren) +2.471s; 3. Leclerc (Ferrari) 10.455; 4. Russell (Mercedes) 11.359; 5. Hulkenberg (Stake F1) 13.648; 6. Hamilton (Ferrari) 15.508; 7. Hadjar (Racing Bulls) 16.022; 8. Gasly (Alpine) 17.882; 9. Alonso (Aston Martin) 21.564.
10. Verstappen (Red Bull) 21.826; 11. Lawson (Racing Bulls) 25.532; 12. Borteleto (Stake F1) 25.996; 13. Tsunoda (Red Bull) 28.822; 14. Sainza (Williams) 29.309; 15. Colapinto (Alpine) 31.381; 16. Ocon (Haas) 32.197; 17. Bearman (Haas) 37.065.
DNF: Antonelli (Mercedes); Albon (Williams); **DNS:** Stroll (Aston Martin).

Standings: Drivers: 1. Piastri 186; 2. Norris 176; 3. Verstappen 137; 4. Russell 111; 5. Leclerc 94.

Constructors: 1. McLaren 362; 2. Ferrari 165; 3. Mercedes 159; 4. Red Bull 144; 5. Williams 54.


THE JOURNEY IN NUMBERS AFTER THE 66-LAP SPANISH GP
Lights to flag
5 Sauber records its first top-five finish since the 2022 Emilia Romagna GP (Bottas with Alfa Romeo)
10 Verstappen finds himself outside the top six in a race for the first time after the 2022 Singapore GP and outside the top eight since the 2021 Hungarian GP
13 Mercedes goes past Ferrari to become the most successful engine manufacturer in Grands Prix in Spain
27 Piastri equals Raikkonen for fifth on the list of most consecutive points finishes in F1
35 Catalunya hosts the Spanish GP for the final time, with the event moving to Madrid from 2026
50 With Piastri's victory, Australia becomes the seventh nation to win as many as 50 races
77 Verstappen pulls level with Vettel in the second spot for most starts in car number 1. Only Schumacher (120) is ahead
96 Tsunoda overtakes Katayama to become the most experienced Japanese driver
137 Norris goes past Button for the second-most starts with McLaren
300 Mercedes records its 300th points-scoring race
2828 Verstappen registers his lowest finish in 2,828 days when he was 10th at the 2017 Italian GP
4000 Williams becomes the first team to complete 4,000 laps at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya

Compiled by ANIRUDH VELAMURI

INBRIEF

'Bitter' Inter coach Inzaghi delays talk about future

Inter Milan coach Simone Inzaghi said there was "too much disappointment and bitterness" to make a call on his future after Saturday's Champions League final loss. Inzaghi, who has been linked with an Inter exit, said discussions about his future – and that of the club – would need to take place another time. "There will be time to talk about it calmly with the club," the coach told reporters, adding "it's not the right time... It's awkward to talk about my future now."

Man Utd signs Brazil forward Cunha from Wolves

Manchester United signed Brazil forward Matheus Cunha from Wolves in a deal worth a reported £62.5 million on Sunday. Cunha is expected to pen a five-year contract with the Old Trafford club, who have the option of extending the deal by a further 12 months.

Kunlavut and Chen reign at the Singapore Open

Kunlavut Vitidsarn celebrated becoming the first man from Thailand to top the badminton world rankings by demolishing China's unseeded Lu Guangzu 21-6, 21-10 in just 37 minutes to win the Singapore Open in style on Sunday. In an all-Chinese women's final at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, fifth seed Chen Yufei outplayed second-seeded Wang Zhiyi 21-11, 21-11.

Bronze for Aman Sehrawat in Ulaanbaatar wrestling

Paris Olympics bronze medallist wrestler Aman Sehrawat (57kg) claimed a bronze in the Ulaanbaatar Open Ranking Series on Sunday. On his comeback to competition after the Olympics last year, Aman defeated Kyrgyzstan's Almaz Smanbekov 11-1 before being pinned by another Olympian and Pan-American champion, Mexico's Roman Gulliermo Bravo Young, in the semifinals. However, he bounced back to beat Turkey's Bekir Keser 12-2 for the bronze. Udit (61kg) picked up a silver, while Amit (79kg) and Vicky (97kg) secured a bronze apiece.

Jeevan and Poonacha duo loses in the semifinals

Third seeds Niki Poonacha and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan lost 7-6(4), 6-3 to Aziz Dougaz and Antoine Escoffier in the doubles semifinals of the $100,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Little Rock, USA. The Indian pair collected 30 ATP points and $1,730.

Jaipur Patriots, Goa Challengers keep winning

Shreya Dhar won her singles and mixed doubles matches to guide Jaipur Patriots to a 6-3 victory over Ahmedabad SG Pipers in the Dream UTT juniors table tennis tournament at the Eka Arena on Sunday. It was the second victory in two matches, by the same 6-3 margin, for the Jaipur team. Dempo Goa Challengers also recorded its second win in two matches by beating Stanley's Chennai Lions 5-4.

The results (league): Dempo Goa Challengers bt Stanley's Chennai Lions 5-4 (Sahil Rawat bt Siddhanth Dhariwal 11-9, 11-9, 11-5; Sahil & Arya Redkar bt Siddhanth & Divyanshi Bhowmick 11-10, 11-9, 5-11; Arya lost to Divyanshi 3-11, 7-11, 6-11); Jaipur Patriots bt Ahmedabad SG Pipers 6-3 (Trishal Surapureddy lost to Abheek Kashyap 8-11, 6-11, 11-7; Trishal & Shreya Dhar bt Abheek & Mouboni Chatterjee 11-8, 11-9, 11-9; Shreya bt Mouboni 9-11, 11-8, 11-10).

LIVE TELECAST

Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD), LIV & FanCode, 2.30 & 8 p.m.

Norway Chess: Sony LIV, 8.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

PSG blazes past Inter Milan to win its maiden Champions League title

Doue is the hero of the night with an assist and two goals; Hakimi, Kvaratskhelia and Mayulu also get on the scoresheet

FOOTBALL

Agence France-Presse
MUNICH

Paris Saint-Germain won the Champions League for the first time as Luis Enrique's brilliant young side outclassed Inter Milan on Saturday in the most one-sided final ever with teenager Desire Doue scoring twice in an astonishing 5-0 victory. Doue supplied the pass for Achraf Hakimi to give PSG an early lead and the 19-year-old went from provider to finisher as his deflected shot doubled the advantage in the 20th minute.

Doue scored again just after the hour mark, ending any doubt about the outcome before Khvicha Kvaratskhelia ran away to get the fourth and substitute Senny Mayulu, another teenager, made it five.

Inter was simply no match for the French club, which recorded the biggest victory by any team in the final in the 70-year history of the European Cup and Champions League.

"This means everything. It's our dream. It's incredible. The result is not by magic. I'm happy we did it like this," said PSG's Portuguese midfielder Vitinha.

PSG's triumph follows over a decade of huge investment from its Qatari owners, and comes five years after it lost to Bayern Munich in its only previous final appearance.

Already domestic league and cup double winners, it is just the second French winner of European football's biggest prize – Marseille was the first in 1993, when it beat AC Milan in a final also played in Munich.

It is also a second Champions League for PSG coach Luis Enrique, who won with Barcelona in 2015.

For a bewildered Inter, there was to be no first Champions League title since 2010 as it failed to add to its three previous triumphs in the competition. It ends the campaign trophyless, and its ageing side will need to be rebuilt.

The result: Paris Saint-Germain 5 (Hakimi 12, Doue 20, 63, Kvaratskhelia 73, Mayulu 86) bt Inter Milan 0.

Target achieved: PSG's players finally celebrate winning the ultimate prize in European club football. AP

How Enrique changed PSG's DNA

Associated Press
PARIS

Luis Enrique got rid of the Galacticos at Paris Saint-Germain and then became one himself.

Before Luis Enrique's arrival at the start of last season, teamwork and unselfishness were not the hallmarks of PSG.

PSG had become increasingly complacent with star names. When Luis Enrique took charge he boldly went against what PSG's owners had done since taking charge 14 years ago.

It was no longer about pandering to star power and it wasn't about who the new coach signed but rather who he sold.

Out went Neymar and midfielder Marco Verratti, Then came the biggest jolt of all as Mbappé.

Luis Enrique made it clear he was looking for dedication in his squad and this was non-negotiable, which is why he dropped Dembélé. Dembélé said nothing. He was transformed into a prolific scorer and is now a potential *Ballon d'Or* winner.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Ansh and Rujula emerge champions

Ansh Negi and Rujula Ramu emerged the boys' and girls' singles champions respectively at the Yonex-Sunrise All-India Junior Ranking badminton tournament here on Sunday.

The results (finals): Singles: Boys: Ansh Negi bt Suryaksh Rawat 16-21, 22-20, 21-12;. **Girls:** Rujula Ramu bt K. Vennala 21-17, 21-14

Doubles: Boys: Bhavya Chhabra & Param Choudhary bt Bhargav Ram Arigela & Viswa Tej Gobburu 21-15, 25-23. **Girls:** K. Vennala & U. Reeshika bt Gayatri Rawat & Mansa Rawat 21-14, 21-18.

Mixed doubles: Vishnu Kedhar Kode & Keerthy Manchala bt Vansh Dev & Shravani Walekar 7-21, 21-17, 21-18.

Celebration time: The winners of the Yonex-Sunrise All-India Junior Ranking badminton tournament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

State-ranking TT tournament

The Karnataka Table Tennis Association will conduct the first State-ranking tournament of the 2025-26 season from June 11 to 15 at Match Point TT Academy, Vasavi School, V.V.Puram. Entries close on June 8 (8 p.m.) and the same may be submitted at *https://karnatakatabletennis.web.app/auth/login*.

For details, call M. Sham (chief referee): 8217796386.

Pavandeep makes 99

Pavandeep R. Bharadakane top-scored with 99 as Bootcamp thrashed Herons by nine wickets in a Tiger Cup U-14 cricket tournament match.

The scores: Play Smart CA 149 in 26.2 overs (Sohum Joshi 34, Yuvan Pavecha 4/21) bt Gopalan Sports CA 59 in 23.2 overs (Jaipreeth 3/8).

Fahrenheits 158/8 in 30 overs (Boffin 61, Akhieera Allan 58, Advay Choudhary 4/32, B.N. Partha 3/13) bt CBT 143 in 29.3 overs (Ameya P. Nayak 40, M. Abhay 3/13, Amey 3/19).

Herons 166/4 in 30 overs (Y. Ishaanth 81, Ashwath Nagarajan 31) lost to Bootcamp 167/1 in 21.1 overs (Pavandeep R. Bharadakane 99, Likhith G. Gaddi 49).

Social Cricketers 214 in 29.3 overs (Vyom Naidu 85, Taksh Ganapathy 45, Praveen Vellingiri 3/30) bt Criclife CA 130 in 23.4 overs (Hrithvik Shetty 62, R. Lalithesh 27).

Alchemy IFA routs BPSS

Alchemy IFA hammered BPSS 8-0 in a Group-B match of the KSFA U-21 Youth Premier League on Sunday. In another encounter, Raman SA defeated Star Soccer 3-0.

Sovereign King wins feature event

BENGALURU: Adhirajsingh Jodha-trained Sovereign King (Antony up), won the Benaka Developers Karnataka Juvenile Million (1,400m), the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (June 1). The winner is owned by Mr. Sudendu Shah, Mrs. Hiral Shah, Dr. Rahul Shah, Mrs. Preeti C. Shah, Mr. K.M. Shah, Mrs. Vanita K. Shah, Mr. Chaitanya Shah & Mr. Vinod M. Mathurawala.

THE RESULTS:

1. PRINCE KHARTOUM PLATE (1,200M): THE STRIKINGLY (Sai Kiran) 1, Ebotse (Antony) 2, Mega Success (Jagadeesh) 3 and Spirit Dancer (G. Vivek) 4. 6, Nose and Lnk. 1m, 14.35s. ₹48 (w), 16, 12 and 31 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 55, FP: 108, Q: 41, Trinella: 622/386, Exacta: 1,291/428. Favourite: Ebotse. Owners: Mr. M. Lakshminarayana & Mr. Charles Chinna Durai. Trainer: Joseph B. Awale.

2. ENDORSEMENT PLATE (1,600M): ROSARIO (G. Vivek) 1, Andre' (Sandesh) 2, Einaudi (Shreyas S) 3 and Alamgir (Neeraj) 4. 6-1/2, 1-1/2 and 1. 1m, 37.37s. ₹16 (w), 11, 34 and 23 (p), SHP: 88, THP: 55, FP: 156, Q: 121, Trinella: 1,445/405, Exacta: 7,430/2,388. Favourite: Rosario. Owners: Mr. Vijay B. Shirke, Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke & Mr. Jay V. Shirke. Trainer: P. Shroff.

3. UDHAGAMANDALAM PLATE (1,200M): CHALLENGE ACCEPTED (Sandesh) 1, Flaming Sword (Neeraj) 2, Doncaster Belle (S. Saqlain) 3 and Scent Of Rain (Trevor) 4. 3, 1-3/4 and Shd. 1m, 12.42s. ₹16 (w), 11, 31 and 17 (p), SHP: 131, THP: 40, FP: 356, Q: 186, Trinella: 570/236, Exacta: 2,288/1,158. Favourite: Challenge Accepted. Owner: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP. Trainer: Adh'singh Jodha.

4. S.G. MADHUKAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400M): BISHOP (A. Prakash) 1, Laguna Seca (Hindu S) 2, Prokofiev (Trevor) 3 and Magnetic (S. Saqlain) 4. 5-1/2, 1 and Nose. 1m, 24.36s. ₹96 (w), 21, 43 and 11 (p), SHP: 153, THP: 78, FP: 3,359, Q: 1,456, Trinella: 6,738/1,684, Exacta: 20,879/8,948. Favourite: Prokofiev. Owner: Mrs. Liane Milan Luthria. Trainer: P. Shroff.

5. BENAKA DEVELOPERS KARNATAKA JUVENILE MILLION (1,400M): SOVEREIGN KING (Antony) 1, Fynbos (Trevor) 2, Big Bay (Yash) 3 and Alfonsine (G. Vivek) 4. 6, Nk and 3. 1m, 23.86s. ₹55 (w), 13, 10 and 11 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 48, FP: 195, Q: 85, Trinella: 233/79, Exacta: 609/422. Favourite: Fynbos. Owners: Mr. Sudendu Shah, Mrs. Hiral Shah, Dr. Rahul Shah, Mrs. Preeti C. Shah, Mr. K.M. Shah, Mrs. Vanita K. Shah, Mr. Chaitanya Shah & Mr. Vinod M. Mathurawala. Trainer: Adh'singh Jodha.

6. ELITE FORCE PLATE (1,300M): SICYON (Sandesh) 1, Silicon Star (Sai Kiran) 2, Perfect Attitude (Antony) 3 and Feel Of Hope (Vinod Shinde) 4. 8-1/2, 2-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 18.30s. ₹14 (w), 11, 16 and 20 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 54, FP: 51, Q: 51, Trinella: 122/44, Exacta: 145/46. Favourite: Sicyon. Owners: M/s. Blazing Saddles(PF) rep by Mr. Niraj Tyagi & Mr. Vikas Sachdeva. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

7. AUREOLE TIME PLATE (1,200M): GLAZE (M. Rajesh K) 1, Darrion (N. Darshan) 2, Sunlit Path (Md. Aliyar) 3 and Chiraag (Afsar) 4. Not run: Multisided. 2-1/2, 4-3/4 and Snk. 1m, 13.98s. ₹394 (w), 32, 17 and 70 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 118, FP: 4,144, Q: 1,959, Trinella: 66,664 (carried over), Exacta: 88,326 (carried over). Favourite: Darrion. Owner: Mr. S.N. Harish. Trainer: Narayana Gowda V.

Jackpot: ₹5,07,047 (carried over); Runner-up: 784 (277 tkts.); Treble (i): 690 (18 tkts.); (ii): 2,959 (seven tkts.).

Sevens to stardom: Rahul's journey from Kerala's mud pitches to West Ham

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
CHENNAI

Monsoons in Kerala have arrived early. In his home in Thrissur, Rahul K.P. wakes up to watch the rain like a 12-year-old boy, smiling. The downpour intensifies. The leaves look greener, the skies darker.

Unlike a schoolboy, it isn't the prospect of a holiday that elates him – quite the opposite.

Rahul is to leave for the USA. He will don West Ham United's jersey at The Soccer Tournament (TST), a seven-a-side competition scheduled between June 4 and 9, becoming the first Indian to do so.

"I belong to a football family where some have represented at higher levels, too. So, my dad and mum spoke to me. They asked, 'Is it for the Premier League club? Are you crazy?' I said, yes, I am," Rahul told *The Hindu*.

TST began in 2023 with a prize pool of $1 million; the winner takes it all. The 2025 edition will have 48 teams, also featuring Sergio Aguero and Nani.

Exciting times: Rahul will don the West Ham jersey at The Soccer Tournament, a seven-a-side competition. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rahul took time to digest the move. The Sevens, as seven-a-side games are called in Kerala, is personal for him.

"Growing up, most of our friends and family used to play football. We'd a football team, Power Depo, in our family name," Rahul said.

"As a kid, I used to go with them to all the tournaments, be the ball boy or understand how they prepare for the game. By the time I grew up (to become eligible to play), the team was sold."

Years later, though it's not his family's club he'll represent, it's his own country – the hopes of 1.4 billion people.

"I have already started getting a lot of messages from young kids, some just 12 or 13. They gather outside my home, saying, 'You're going to West Ham. One day, I'll do that too,'" Rahul added.

India junior women beat Uruguay

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India secured a 3-1 win in the shootout against Uruguay after regulation time ended in a 2-2 draw in their fifth fixture of the junior women's Four Nations Hockey Tournament in Rosario, Argentina.

Vice-captain Hina (10) and Lalrinpuii (24) put India in control early in the match.

Uruguay, however, mounted a comeback in the final quarter. Ines de Posadas pulled one back in the 54th minute before Milagros Seigal struck three minutes later to level the score at 2-2.

In the shootout, India held its composure as Geeta, Kanika, and Lalthantluagi scored three consecutive goals, while Uruguay was restricted to just one conversion.

The result: India 2 (Hina 10, Lalrinpuii 24) drew with Uruguay 2 (Ines de Posadas 54, Milagros Seigal 57). (*India won 3-1 via penalty shootout*).

Deepak and Naman punch gold in Thai Open boxing

Naman and Deepak...great outing. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sports Bureau

Deepak (75kg) and Naman Tanwar (90kg) clinched gold medals at the Thailand Open International boxing tournament in Bangkok on Sunday.

Deepak defeated Uzbekistan's Abdurakhimov Javokhir 5-0, while Tanwar beat China's Han Xuezhen 4-1 in the finals.

Kiran loses

In the women's 80+kg final, Kiran was beaten 3-2 by Kazakhstan's Yeldana Talipova.

Meanwhile, Anshul Gill (90+kg), despite winning his semifinal, was disqualified from participating in the final as he was penalised for gesturing at the Uzbekistan coach during his last-four engagement. He was also barred from receiving a medal.

Tamanna (51kg), Priya (57kg), Sanju (60kg), Saneh (70kg) and Lalfakmawii Ralte (80kg) claimed bronze medals.